



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Residents Set Up Farmers' Market On 24th Street

By Corrie M. Anders

It may not have the abundance of the Alemany Farmers' Market, nor the classy architectural setting of the Ferry Building Plaza. But the new Noe Valley Farmers Market will have its own juicy, homegrown flavor.

Starting Dec. 6, thanks to a group of local activists, six handpicked vendors will sell organic fruits and vegetables on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon in a corner of the Noe Valley Ministry's new parking lot at 3865 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets. Rev. Keenan Kelsey of the Ministry is scheduled to bless the market on opening day at a 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting. There also will be music and entertainment for children.

Last month, the city's health department gave the market a 13-week permit to operate at the Ministry's parking lot. If all goes well, organizers say, the market could become a year-round fixture, though at another neighborhood location—perhaps James Lick School.

"People are just thrilled that Noe Valley is going to have its own farmers' market," says 24th Street resident Leslie Crawford, a volunteer who helped organize the *al fresco* mart. "It's just another reason to love Noe Valley and the people who live here."

Old Van Is Legal, But Keeps Getting Tagged

Resident Offers Reward for Tip on Identity of Harasser

By Suzanne Herel

Someone doesn't like the looks of Noe Valley resident Maxine Karell's old van.

For the past eight months, that someone—presumably a disgruntled neighbor—repeatedly has called the Department of Parking and Traffic and reported the 1971 Chevy van abandoned.

It doesn't matter that Karell moves the van at least one block or 1/10 of a mile every 72 hours, in accordance with the city vehicle code. Nor does it help that she plasters her windows with notes to DPT, explaining the situation.

Her tires still get chalked, and a warning sticker is slapped on the driver side of the windshield two to three times a month.

"I have to go out there with a razor, it's done so often," she says.

That annoyance would be troubling enough for Karell, who is recovering from two major knee surgeries and must enlist her husband and daughter to move the van.

But then over Halloween weekend, when the van was parked in the 1000 block of Church Street, someone smashed the van's passenger-side window and punctured three of the tires.

Karell, who has owned a home on 22nd

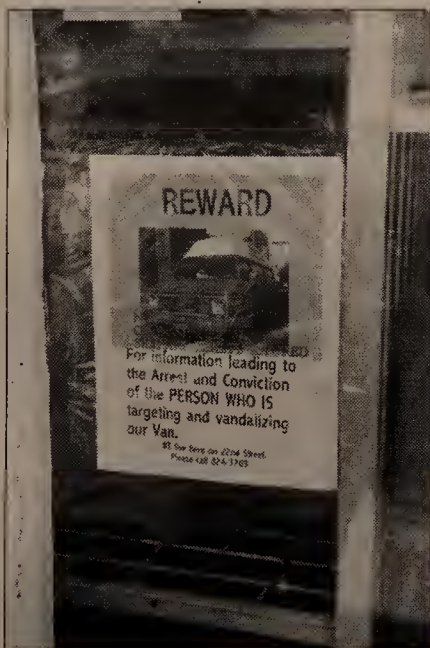


Winter Wonder. Just like 2-year-old Aidan Kelly, we'd love to touch, but this 24th Street shop window keeps its display safe. The *Noe Valley Voice* wishes you all a pleasant holiday as we start our December-long vacation. We'll be back in January to prepare for the February issue. See you next year! Photo by Pamela Gerard

It's been tough to get organic goods locally since the abrupt closing in August of the 24th Street branch of the Real Food Company (also called Fresh Organics), which many Noe Valleyans felt had one of the best produce sections in the city.

But now, neighborhood residents can sample the food grown by farms scattered throughout Northern California. "I will have chard, kale, Napa cabbage, bok choy, tha tsai, burdock, parsnips, and Brussels

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A 22nd Street resident is asking for help in identifying the anonymous caller who keeps reporting her 1971 Chevy van abandoned.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

Street since 1975, doesn't think the vandalism was a coincidence, especially because the calls to the abandoned vehicle hotline seem to heat up when she parks the van on Church.

At her wits' end, Karell is offering a monetary reward for the positive identification of the person or persons targeting her vehicle. She declined to specify the amount of the award.

"I need the neighborhood to look out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Is There Life After Dark in Noe Valley?

A *Voice* Reporter with a Strong Constitution Dares to Find Out

By Peter Orsi

A friend of mine likes to say, with no small amount of snark, that "Noe Valley is a great place to be on a Sunday morning, and a lousy place to be on a Saturday night."

It's something I hear all the time from friends in other neighborhoods: Noe Valley is famous for couples lounging on sunny sidewalks with bagels and gourmet coffee, not nightclubs full of young hipsters prowling the singles scene.

But with no less than five watering holes in a span of three blocks, 24th Street must be home to at least a few vampires. So I've decided to spend a Saturday night searching out these denizens, to ask what draws them to Noe Valley after dark.

When I arrive at 24th and Church a little after 9 p.m., the intersection is bustling with people. Several young couples are working hard trying to flag a cab. A good sign of life perhaps.

Maybe not. If they're getting in taxis, they're likely heading for North Beach or the Marina.

I duck into Noe's Bar and find there's a different sporting event on each of the 12 televisions in the place. Nobody's paying attention, except for three people who are deep into a San Jose Earthquakes playoff game. Most of the chairs and stools are taken, though.

It's Wig Night at Noe's, and the table next to me is full of 30- and 40-somethings with creative coiffures. One of them is my former neighbor, although I don't immediately recognize her beneath her dark Cleopatra wig.

"Cleopatra" is a fan of the night scene here. In fact, she doesn't have much use for 24th Street on weekend days. "I like it after six," she says.

Noe's Bar is a "friendly, neighborhood place," she tells me, where everyone knows one another. "When [the regulars] don't show up for a few days, everybody's calling."

"It's like *Cheers*," says a man wearing a stringy brown wig, whose friends keep calling him "Cro-Magnon Man."

They say the neighborhood is such a small circle that none of them wants to be identified in my story. "People come in and say, 'I read about you in the *Noe Valley Voice*,'" Cleopatra says. "It's too much."

She catches me up on everything that's happened in my old building since I left in June. She just bought a house in Sunnyside and is moving out this week, which means that soon four of the six units will stand empty. If the rental market is any indication, we'll have to wait a while for that economic recovery. Consensus at the table is, that's not a bad thing. They don't remember the dot-com boom fondly.

"Noe Valley was trying to be Union

Holiday Bash to Benefit the Library

By Laura McHale Holland

Two stalwarts of local activism, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association and the Friends of Noe Valley, are co-hosting a holiday extravaganza, set to begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, at the Noe Valley Ministry.

This is the first time the groups have combined their holiday festivities, and the purpose of the gathering is to celebrate the season with neighbors while also raising money for the upcoming renovation of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street. The library's renovation is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2004, and should last for approximately two years.

There will be plenty of food and drink to imbibe at the party, but the main attraction will be a live auction, with Supervisor Bevan Dufty serving as auctioneer.

"The auction will feature about a dozen 'only in Noe Valley' items," says Debra Niemann, vice president of Friends of Noe Valley. "That can be everything from a walking tour of 24th Street with Paul Kantus to lunch with Bevan Dufty, a tea party package, a financial package, history of your house, massage at Elisa's, dinner at a Noe Valley restaurant, a home improvement package, a night at a bed and breakfast, lunch with a local author, time with a personal trainer, and yoga classes."

The event has no admission charge, but volunteers will request a donation for the library at the door. "Everybody has a personal feeling about the library one way or the other, and that personal feeling will determine how much they want to give. Everything we raise at this party goes directly to the library," notes Niemann.

All of the goods and services necessary to produce the party have been either donated or underwritten by neighborhood merchants and organizations. For example, local flower purveyor Indigo V will

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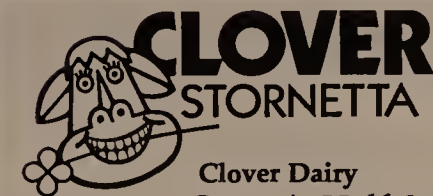


A Seasonal Trimming of the Trees. Before the arrival of our winter storms, a Department of Public Works crew rose high above Dolores Street to spruce up our heralded palms.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

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LETTERS 37¢

Real Food Often Real Rude

Editor:

I am not one of the great supporters of Real Foods. I found the employees disinterested, unhelpful, and often downright rude. While I am always pro-union, those employees needed lots of training in customer service.

Probably the wretched wages paid by management did not motivate employees to care much for the quality of service they rendered. A lot needs to be done to make whatever goes into that space a pleasant place to shop.

Robert Warren Cromeey
20th Street

A Nasty Way to Do Business

Editor:

This is in response to the letter in the November 2003 issue from Lorraine Evanoff, entitled "Noe Valley Could Use Some Fresh Organics."

The protests against Fresh Organics, Inc., are not about clean sidewalks and new awnings but about justice for the workers who were fired and a positive and progressive wish to support businesses whose practices match the "spirit of the area." Closing a store suddenly without notice to the 30 workers who depend on the store for their livelihood is a nasty way to do business. Closing a store that a community depends on for its food without any communication whatsoever to the community is not a decision made for the good of the community.

The expected shiny fixtures, clean awnings, and sparkling interior of the new store will not hide the dingy and possibly illegal practices this company engages in. This community doesn't resist

change; it resists uncaring, greedy, out-of-state corporate ownership, and I'm proud to be part of the resistance.

Vanessa Barrington
Castro Street

Unsung Hills

Editor:

One of my favorite activities is walking the hills of our city. They define us to the world; they are celebrated in song and story. I was somewhat surprised, then, to discover that a couple of fairly substantial peaks right in our own back yard seem to have gone unrecognized. I wonder whether this is really the case, or whether your readers can offer any established nomenclature.

One such hill is near and dear to my heart because it stands between my home and Noe Valley's 24th Street shopping district, and must be planned around when we venture in that direction. This is the rise whose summit is the block on Dolores Street between Jersey and 25th. It slopes down in all directions and, viewed from Twin Peaks, can be easily seen to have its own identity.

The other forms a large part of any view of Noe Valley. This is the spur of Diamond Heights crowned by the Duncan/Castro open space. The saddle between it and Gold Mine Hill is not deep, but neither is it wide, and anyone enjoying the view from the Duncan/Castro space will agree that the hill they are sitting on is solidly self-contained.

I'd be interested to hear whether your readers know of any names that have been given to these oldest kids on the block.

Dave Schweisguth
San Jose Avenue

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Kathy Willems
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Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and manuscripts, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned manuscripts will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Saturday-Morning Farmers' Market To Start Dec. 6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sprouts," says Ken Orchard, of Orchard Farms. "Starting in January, I'll have white cauliflower and Romanesco broccoli."

Orchard operates a spread totaling 40 acres of certified organic produce in the Sebastopol area. "Certified" means his vegetables are grown in soil that is free of pesticides or petroleum-based fertilizers.

Orchard says that even with a 5 a.m. wakeup and an 80-minute drive to San Francisco, he is looking forward to offering his wares in Noe Valley.

"I think the need for urbanites to have direct access to organic vegetables is very important," he says. "I think everybody in the city will really benefit from the weekly experience of buying directly from a producer" whose goods were harvested the day before.

In addition to Orchard's vegetables, Noe Valley shoppers will have their seasonal picks of lettuce, squash, leaks, cabbage, carrots, turnips, apples, peppers, herbs, and vine-ripened tomatoes, cultivated by at least five other farms.

In the near future, farmers' market organizers hope to add fresh breads, eggs, and other farm staples to the lineup. It's

unlikely, however, that many additional farms will be invited to participate at the parking lot location.

"We're a little squashed for space," says Crawford. That's because the needs of the commercial parking lot will limit the amount of space available for other uses.

Merchants Hope Parking Won't Suffer

Last month, the buzz around the neighborhood left no doubt that the market would be a hit. But some merchants worried that its popularity would create traffic congestion in Downtown Noe Valley.

Crawford offers her assurances that it will not. "This is not going to be a destination spot for people from other neighborhoods," says Crawford.

Still, parking was a concern raised by members of the Noe Valley Merchants Association at a Nov. 23 meeting with market organizers.

"I think the farmers' market is a really good idea," says association president Carol Yenne. "But our endorsement is with the idea that this is temporary" in the parking lot location for 13 weeks. "They can't go past that."

Yenne says the merchants would prefer that any long-term farmers' market "be located at James Lick or St. Philip's [neighborhood schools], where we don't normally use parking."

James Lick is indeed under consideration as an alternative site. "We are investigating the possibility of relocating there," and the group is holding discussions with school officials, says Eric Viscito, another market organizer.

From the Ashes of Real Food Co.

The birth of the new marketplace was precipitated by the convergence of two disparate events—a closing and an opening.

The first came on Labor Day weekend when Utah-based Fresh Organics, Inc.,

abruptly shut down the Real Food Company and laid off 30 of its workers. Employees claim they were fired because they were trying to organize a union. Fresh Organics, Inc., a subsidiary of vitamin and nutritional supplement manufacturer Nutraceutical Corporation, contends the store was closed for remodeling.

A dozen or so neighborhood activists, including Crawford, Viscito, and Elizabeth Street resident Peter Gabel, met almost weekly during September and October to find ways to support the employees.

A new entity, the Noe Valley Farmers Market, emerged from those meetings. (The group now has a web site: noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.)

"This is a close-knit community that doesn't sit back passively, but rises to a challenge when it's presented to us," says Crawford. "And what could be more of a positive response to the long-term shut-down of Real Food than an open-air neighborhood market selling healthy, locally grown food?"

Toward a Health Food Store

The next task was to find a home for the market.

At the time, the defunct Dan's Auto Service was in the final stages of a long-awaited transformation into a commercial parking lot. The new lot has 29 parking spaces and, according to a Ministry spokesman, is scheduled to open for business sometime in December.

Farmers' market organizers asked the community-oriented Ministry for permission to locate on the lot—and the church agreed to let the market use a portion of its space for four hours each Saturday. Vendors will pay a fee to use the parking spaces they occupy.

"The farmers' market has two goals," says Gabel, who has been intimately involved recently in several neighborhood issues, including the successful effort to

FARMERS' MARKET VENDORS

Here's a list of the farms that will sell produce on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and noon at the new Noe Valley Farmers' Market, on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

Happy Boy Farms

Freedom, Calif.

Greens, squash, leeks, chard, kale, cabbage, carrots, and turnips

Knoll Organic Farms

Brentwood, Calif.

Herbs and greens

Malik Ranch

Hickman, Calif.

Pistachios, walnuts, almonds, and dried fruits

Marshall's Farm Honey

American Canyon, Calif.

Natural honey

Mellow's Nursery & Farms

Sunnyvale, Calif.

Apples, tomatoes, peppers, winter squash

Orchard Farms

Sebastopol, Calif.

Broccoli, leeks, parsley, bok choy, chard, cauliflower, kale

save the Cover to Cover bookstore from bankruptcy.

"With Real Foods closed, it will provide organic food to the community," he says, "and the second goal is to support the workers who were terminated."

The work of building a farmers' market, adds Gabel, "may well be the first step in creating a progressive health food store in Noe Valley."



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LETTERS 37¢

Anyone Have a "Parlor Peeker"?

Editor:

I own a third-floor flat on Clipper between Noe and Castro, and I recently became interested in rebuilding and restoring a unique feature in my home. The home was built in 1908, and it has a large handle at the top of the stairs that used to operate a mechanical door opener. The feature even showed up in a scene in *Bullitt!* (Bullitt lived at Clay and Taylor, but I'm reluctant to bother the occupants to see if their opener is still in operation.)

I'd love to find someone who has one of these door openers so I could see it in action and find out how to rebuild mine. These are the facts I have so far: The handle says, "G. Rischmuller, Pat. Aug. 21, 1894." According to the *San Francisco Call*, George Rischmuller had a daughter born in 1895. I found an article in the *Search* (Peninsula Library publication) that calls this device a "Parlor Peeker," since it allowed Victorian parents to check up on their daughters' suitors.

Thank you in advance for any help or advice you can give!

Rob Robinson

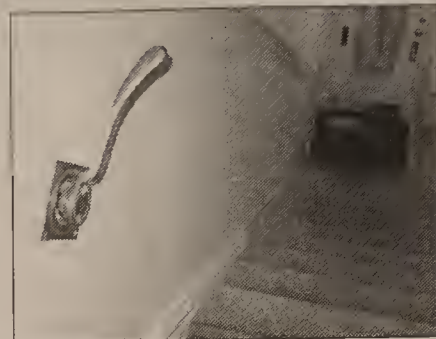
rrobinson@strykerendo.com

Spots for Toys for Tots

Editor:

As a local Noe Valley resident and longtime *Voice* reader, I thought other readers might want to know about my office's Toys for Tots program, which we host every year. We encourage readers to drop off an unwrapped toy or two at any of our offices by Dec. 22, to help give a little joy to a needy child this year.

The Toys for Tots program serves children of all ages, and with the economic



Rob Robinson would like to fix the mechanical door opener in his home on Clipper Street. Can you help him out?

downturn and recent Southern California fires, that need is greater than ever. We'll have collection barrels at our offices at 2241 Market Street (between Noe and Sanchez), among other places. Please join us in making the holidays a little nicer for needy children and their families.

Galen Gruman

Prudential California Realty

Bird & Beckett Blues

Editor:

People need to hurry to the Bird & Beckett Bookstore at Diamond and Chenery in Glen Park if they want to get discounts on books and hear great jazz on Fridays, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the first Sunday of the month. Without our help, the bookstore might have to close in January.

Five years has not given the store enough regular customers to operate at a profit, so new customers are needed to at least make the Christmas season a good one. The phone number at Bird & Beckett is 586-3733.

Dorothy Lefkovits
Chumasero Drive

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Nightlife in Noe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Street," Cleopatra says.

A man wearing a bright orange 'fro peeking out from under a Giants hat adds, "It was too commercial. It didn't have the personal touch anymore."

Cleopatra says she's "bummed" about leaving Noe Valley, but she knows she'll be back. "Everyone at this table has moved away"—to Hunters Point, Glen Park, the Sunset—"but they come back for the camaraderie."

They Really Are Dubliners

My next stop, the Dubliner, is about three-quarters full, mostly with patrons who look to be in their 30s. I pull up a stool and ask the bartender for a beer.

"The cab is outside," she is saying gently to one of her customers. He thanks her, gets up, and walks toward the door on shaky legs. I change my order to a half-pint; must keep my wits about me.

The Dubliner is one of a vanishing breed: an Irish pub with honest-to-goodness Irish people bellying up to the bar.

David Owens, 30, claims the stool next to me. Bom in Dublin, he's lived in Noe Valley for the past four years. He estimates that about 40 percent of the crowd at the Dubliner was born on the Emerald Isle. "Lots of Irish construction workers and bartenders stop in," Owens says. "The rest are mostly working-class Americans."

What brings him here a couple times a week? "This is probably the best pint of Guinness in the city," he says. Keeping it the right temperature and pouring carefully makes all the difference, he tells me.

Twenty-fourth Street is a "mellow" scene, Owens says. "They're neighborhood bars, not go-to places. You always run into someone you know."

Failing that, you can grab a stool and

chat with whoever's next to you. After I'm done interviewing him, we start talking soccer. A half-hour and another half-pint later, I remember I'm here to do a job. So I say goodbye and head for nightspot No. 3.

Our Answer to Studio 54

Bliss Bar. I've been warned that it's different from everything else on 24th Street. Cleopatra called it "pretentious," and Owens said that on weekends Bliss is full of "yuppies" and "martini drinkers."

When I arrive a little after 11 p.m., a handful of people are outside smoking cigarettes and watching a deejay spin hip-hop tracks at the front window. A young man wearing shiny leather shoes, gray slacks, and a button-up shirt is on his cell phone. "Are you there already?" he asks. "Are you going to get in line? Who are you with? Cool. All right, I'll get there as soon as I can."

If there's anything "happening" on 24th Street tonight—at least in a Studio 54 kind of way—it's here at Bliss. Inside, 20-somethings in jeans and leather jackets have gobbled up all available seating on the lounge-y couches and low chairs covered with burgundy plush. Mixed drinks are *de rigueur*. Suddenly I feel underdressed in my black hooded sweatshirt.

But I'm the only one who feels out of place. Bliss is "very romantic," say Cathy and Neal, both 25, who live in Twin Peaks. "We went for a meal in North Beach and came here. It's what we call a nice wee bar: very cute, very cozy."

Originally from Northern Ireland, Neal and Cathy say they chose Bliss as an alternative to the Irish pub atmosphere. "There are a lot of dark, dingy bars," Cathy says. "You walk into Bliss and there's a different vibe. The name of the bar definitely suits the bar."

That, and they mix her vodka orange just right. "It's the best vodka in the city," she says.

Everyone else is having a good time too. At least a dozen people are packed into the back room for a private party. A champagne cork pops, followed by cheers and cries of "Speech! Speech!" The guest of honor is happy to oblige: "I love you all," she says. "I mean *all*. All, all, all."

A Good Happy Medium

Just up the street, about 40 Gen-Xers and youngish boomers are crowded into the Valley Tavern, listening to the likes of Def Leppard and AC-DC on the jukebox. Two couples are playing a spirited game of pool in back. The beer selection is extensive, but I stick with my half-pint of Stella Artois.

The last time I was here, I came alone and read in the sun on the back patio, but the bartender tells me tonight that it's been closed for "months," ever since a neighbor complained about noise. "It was open for 15 years before that," he says. The Tavern has been fighting to reopen its patio; the bartender says it could happen "anytime now."

The Valley Tavern is the new kid on the 24th Street block, and the latest in a series of bars to occupy this space. After the last tenant—the Coyote Club—closed down in the spring, Dubliner owner Vince Hogan remodeled the interior, built an open-air smoking patio in front, and opened the spiffier Tavern.

Matt Pendergast likes the new look. "They invested a little, put in some benches, spent some money for some TVs. They did a good job."

Pendergast, 36, says the nightlife here is better than near his home in Glen Park. "And I'm too old to hit downtown and do the hipster scene. This is a good happy medium."

"I like going out on a Saturday night for a few drinks," he adds, "but I don't want to have to dress up or wait in line or

know somebody."

It takes us a few minutes to figure it out, but Pendergast and I met about six months ago at a beach bonfire party thrown by a mutual friend. I'm beginning to believe what people have been telling me all night: On 24th Street, you always see someone you know.

Last Call in the Neighborhood

It's close to 1 a.m., but the Peaks up on Castro Street has as much business as it can handle. Tonight's clientele: a handful of people who look like regulars, and a few dozen hipsters.

A woman dressed all in black, who describes herself as a "sometimes" regular, seems baffled by the youth invasion. Usually, she says, half-kidding, the Peaks is full of "old alcoholics."

She declines to tell me her name, saying, simply, "I have priors."

A man who asks to be identified as "Vinnie Schlitz" says he and his friends came to the Peaks for a birthday party. Vinnie lives in the Castro and "very rarely" visits this neighborhood. "Noe Valley is not necessarily known for its nightlife," he says. What is it known for then? "Strollers, and nice houses."

His friend Kate Ellison, 32, from Mission Dolores, agrees. "Noe Valley is what your parents want you to be in San Francisco," she says, "with the 2.5 [children] quota filled."

They're the only people I've met tonight who haven't raved about the 24th Street bar scene. Nevertheless, they're full of pints and good cheer, as are their friends. One of them, a blonde woman wearing a Philadelphia 76ers dress, is finding her groove next to the pool table.

And just before last call, Ellison does have a few kind words for Noe Valley. "It's quaint," she says. "It's one of the last neighborhood stops in a city that's running out of neighborhood stops." ■



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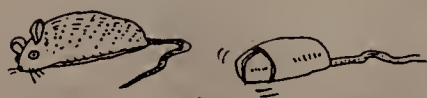


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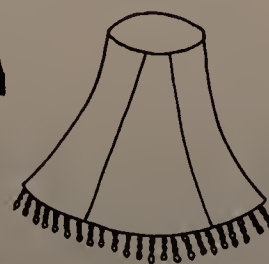


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Resident's Old Van Unfairly Targeted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and help me," she says. "This is a story about how people can lose their rights and become victims of the system."

She also is looking for support in her effort to change the city's hotline system in such a way as to require the identity of callers (for city use only).

"The thing that would correct this is if he had to leave his name and number," Karell says.

A spokeswoman for the DPT who requested that her name not be used confirms that callers are not asked to identify themselves when they report a vehicle abandoned.

The department has no choice, she says, but to send out an officer for each call—even if it appears to have stemmed from a dispute with a neighbor.

"We have to go out and mark it," she says. "But as long as the vehicle is being moved, we won't tow it. We just disregard."

An officer determines whether the vehicle is being moved by looking inside at the odometer, she adds.

Karell says she's not the only resident with an old car who has faced this problem. When her neighbors inherited an old gray Pontiac, they too battled an anonymous caller to the abandoned vehicle hotline, for about a year. They finally just sold the car.

Karell says the Pontiac owner knocked on her door when he began seeing the stickers on her van and said, "I can't believe the same thing's happening to you."

Another neighbor, who owns a 1991 Ford pickup, also recently had her vehicle reported as abandoned while parked in the same area. In addition, someone has let the air out of her tires several times,



Noe Valley resident Maxine Karell moves her vehicle as often as the city says she must, but her tires still get chalked and her windshield plastered with warnings. Photo by Beverly Sharp

smashed a window, and cut the brake line.

For her part, Karell refuses to get rid of her van. "I'm not going to get chased out of Dodge," she says.

Meanwhile, Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo, who covers the Noe Valley turf for Mission Station, is asking local

residents to keep their eyes open for the person or persons harassing Karell.

"Some of these people [like Karell] have been in the neighborhood a long time," Lombardo says, and it makes sense that they would have older vehicles. "We don't need this kind of harassment."

Karell asks that anyone in the area of 22nd Street between Vicksburg and Church streets who is encountering similar trouble, or who has information on the person who is reporting her vehicle abandoned, call her at 824-3769. Her van's license plate is 606MHA.

Anyone with information on the vandalism incident should call Mission Station at 558-5400.

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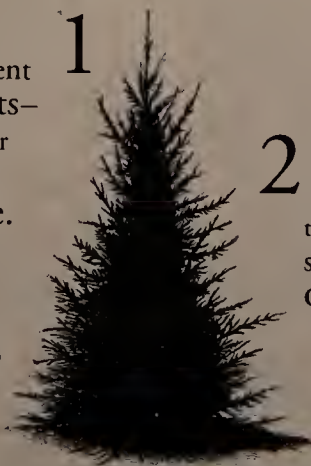
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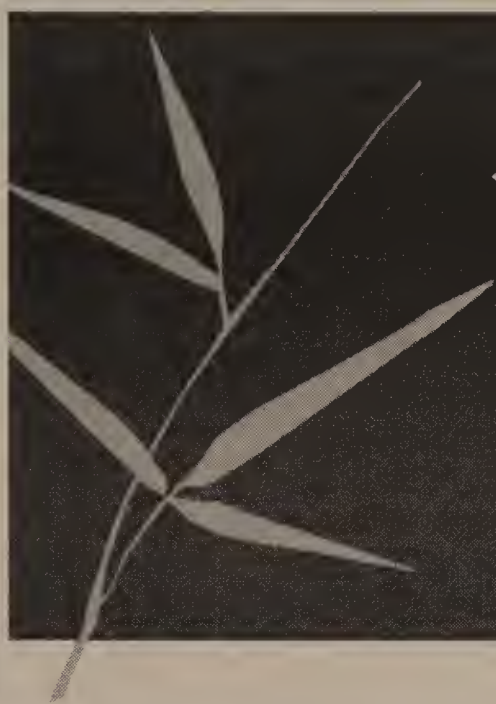
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Merchants Party With Friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decorate the Ministry's upstairs sanctuary for the affair. Culinary delights will be created by the likes of Tom's Peasant Pies, Noe Valley Bakery, and Pasta Pomodoro. Drinks both hard and soft, for the no-host bar, have also been donated.

Staff from the Noe Valley Nursery School will provide child care downstairs. A full list of sponsors will be at the party's entrance.

In November 2000, city voters approved a \$106 million bond measure to renovate local library branches in need of seismic repair. A hefty \$4.2 million was earmarked for the Noe Valley Branch. However, most of that money will go toward earthquake and disabled-access retrofitting. It is unknown how much, if any, will remain for upgrading equipment and making the library's interior more functional for the future.

During community design workshops held this October at the library, neighbors,

library staff, and the project's architect, Alice Carey, came up with plans for preserving the beauty and historical nature of the Carnegie-era library, which has been designated an architecturally significant building by the City Landmarks Board. They also strove to create a better work environment for the library staff, enhance the the community meeting room and collection areas, and make accommodations for 21st-century technology.

"We have a great design right now that still has to be finalized. That will happen in the first quarter of next year. Now is the time to match money with ideas, so the funds we raise at the party will really make a difference in terms of what is possible for our library," says Niemann. "We'll take checks; we'll even take IOUs."

For more information about the party itself, or about making a donation to the library, contact Niemann at 282-9918.

If you want to help the producers of the event, call Carol Yenne at 648-3954. She's the president of the Merchants Association, and is especially interested in getting more restaurants involved.

The Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street. ■



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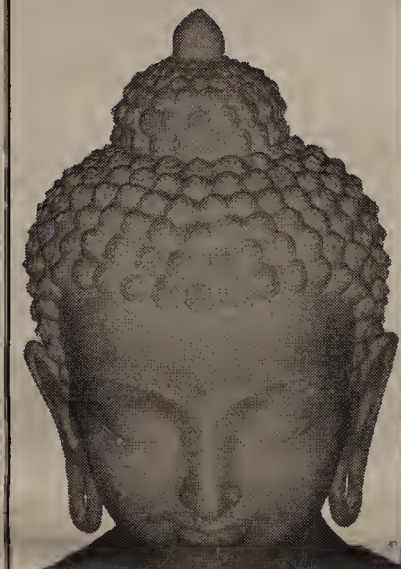
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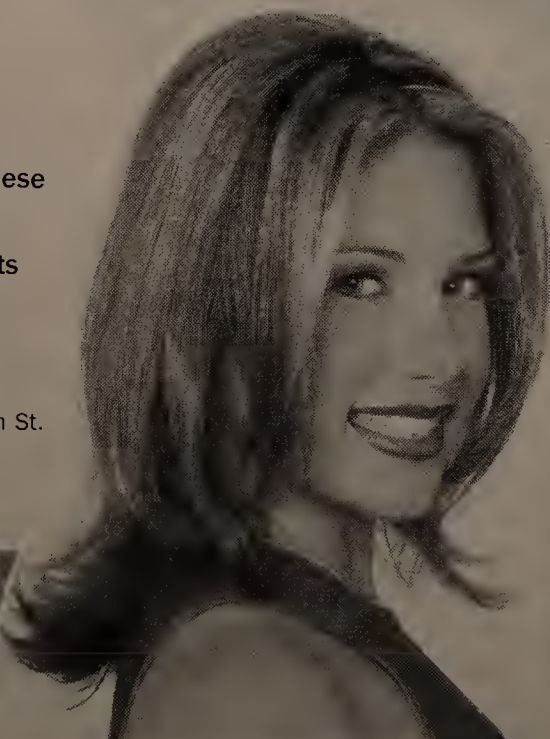
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Police Beat is a roundup of crimes and other police incidents in Noe Valley, defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations during the month of October 2003.

Theft of Vehicle: Between 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, and 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6; unit block of Valley Street

Someone stole a white 1985 two-door Saab from where it was parked in the unit block of Valley Street sometime between Oct. 1 and Oct. 6. The owner said the car was locked and bears the California license plate 4KWH935.

Vehicle Tampering: Between 9:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, and 6:45 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7; 200 block of Day Street

Someone slashed the convertible top of a blue 1999 Mazda Miata parked in the 200 block of Day Street overnight on Oct. 6. The gash measured about 18 inches. It appeared that someone had rummaged through the interior of the car—which had been locked—but nothing was missing.

Burglary, Residence Under Construction: Between 10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, and 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9; 1300 block of Diamond Street

Someone stole a black Dell Latitude laptop computer from a home office in a house located in the 1300 block of Diamond Street. The house was being renovated and had been under construction for about 10 weeks.

The owner said she had been in and out of the house during that time and had noticed on the afternoon of Oct. 9 that the garage door had been left partially open. The area where the computer was located was on the ground floor next to the garage.

There was no sign of forced entry, and no other items appeared to be missing.

Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer: 10:25 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12; Church and Valley streets

While on another call, two police officers were approached by a man who was pushing a shopping cart filled with glass bottles and aluminum cans. The man told police that the cashier at a store in the 1600 block of Church Street had taken \$5 from him. The officers asked the man to wait on the corner until they finished with their original call. As he was pushing his cart to the corner, it overturned, spilling its contents onto the sidewalk.

The officers went into the store and talked to the owners, who said the man with the cart had threatened to throw a bottle at them. They added that they did not want the man to come back in.

When the officers returned to the man with the cart and instructed him not to return to the store, he became angry and shouted that he wanted his money back. The officers told him to clean up the rest of his bottles and leave the area. He refused and started swearing at them.

One of the officers took hold of the man's right arm and directed him back to his cart. The officer reported smelling alcohol on the man's breath. The man allegedly swung his right arm, trying to get away from the officer, and ended up falling to the ground.

The officer determined that the man was intoxicated and unable to take care of himself. He still had hold of the man, who was kicking and screaming. The man tried to get up twice, but the officer held him down.

At that point, a woman came out of a nearby building and asked the officers to leave the man alone. When the man was allowed to get to his feet, he took what one officer described as a defensive stance, with his hands in a fist as he walked back to the cart, with the police officer following. The man was about three feet away from the officer when he picked up a bottle and held it in his hand.

The officer drew his gun and pointed it at the man. He demanded several times that he put down the bottle. The man refused, and other people who were looking out of the building began to shout at the officers, saying "A gun's not necessary" and "I'm calling the real police."

Additional officers arrived on the scene and arrested the 38-year-old man, an apparent transient. As he was being put into

the police car, the man allegedly kicked one of the officers in the knee.

Theft of Vehicle: Between 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, and 8:15 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17; 30th and Noe streets

A 1992 maroon, two-door Mustang was stolen from where it was parked near 30th and Noe streets on the night of Oct. 16. The car, which was locked and belongs to a 29th Street resident, bears the California license plate 3ADR097.

Burglary, Apartment House: Between 7 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16; 200 block of Fair Oaks Street

A woman who lives in the 200 block of Fair Oaks Street returned home on the evening of Oct. 16 to find that someone had broken her bathroom window, entered her home, and stolen a stereo and some jewelry.

The 34-year-old woman told police that upon arriving home, she noticed that her back door was unlocked from the inside. She checked the bathroom, which is right next to the back door, and saw that the window was broken.

Stolen were a gold Chinese panda coin ring valued at \$1,000; three gold bracelets valued at \$100 apiece; a gold amulet in the design of a bow valued at \$100; two gold and garnet rings and a gold and aquamarine ring whose value was yet to be determined; and a stereo valued at \$200.

Petty Theft: 4:40 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18; 3900 block of 24th Street

A 41-year-old San Francisco woman was arrested and charged with stealing several items from Just for Fun and the Ark stores on 24th Street.

An employee of Just for Fun told police that on the afternoon of Oct. 18, he had been watching a particular female customer for about 20 minutes before she

bought a small metal key chain and inquired about the store's return policy.

The woman set off the security alarm upon leaving the store and returned to the employee, who took her to the back of the store, where she was interviewed by a second employee.

The customer told the second employee that she did not have any merchandise from the store and opened her bag to show several items with price stickers on them from the Ark down the street.

The Ark was notified, and one of its employees responded to the store and recognized the woman as having been in the Ark about a half hour previously. She had not purchased anything.

The woman allegedly took a datebook and coin purse from Just for Fun, and various toys, rings, and a harmonica from the Ark. The total value of the merchandise was around \$100. The woman at first said she would like to pay for the items she had taken, but could only offer \$25.

A computer check revealed an outstanding warrant for her arrest.

Burglary, Apartment Building: Between 9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, and 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21; 400 block of Elizabeth Street

Someone entered an apartment building in the 400 block of Elizabeth Street sometime overnight on Oct. 20 and stole a green Montague mountain bike valued at between \$650 and \$750. The word "paratrooper" is written on the bike in black letters.

The thief also made off with a bunch of keys that were underneath the bike seat. The owner told police that the front door to the apartment building does not always lock properly.

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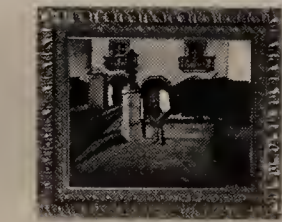
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POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Burglary, Residence: Between 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, and 12:14 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25; 200 block of 29th Street

Someone broke into a home in the 200 block of 29th Street sometime after 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 24, stealing a Compaq Presario laptop computer valued at \$1,500, a brown Ifshin violin valued at \$1,200, a black violin case valued at \$50, and a brown violin bow whose value was to be determined.

The woman who lives in the home told police that she wasn't sure if her rear sliding door was locked when she left her house around 9:30 p.m. She later received a phone call from an unspecified person saying that her house had been broken into, and so she returned home.

The woman told police that when she looked around her home, she found her back door unlocked. The front door, too, was unlocked, though she was sure she had locked it upon leaving.

Neighbors on either side of the residence did not see or hear anything unusual. Neither did people attending a party that was going on at that time in the residence above the woman's apartment.

Burglary, Residence: Between 1:30 and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28; 4400 block of 25th Street

Around 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 28, a man claiming to be from the city water department rang the doorbell of a home in the 4400 block of 25th Street. The man, who showed no identification, told the 73-year-old woman who answered the door that he and a crew were working in the area and that he needed to come inside to check the faucets.

The woman let him in, and they both went into the kitchen, where he examined the faucet. He then told the woman that he needed to check the hoses in her back yard. Once outside, he began speaking into a radio, describing the yard.

The impostor told the woman that everything appeared to be in order, and she walked him back through her house and let him out the front door.

After the man left, the woman called the water department and was informed that no crews were working in the area. She then checked around the neighborhood, but saw no sign of the visitor.

The woman told police that she didn't

realize anything was missing until she went looking for something that evening and found that \$350 in cash was gone from her purse in the kitchen. Next, she checked her bedroom and discovered that \$1,500 in cash had been stolen from the top drawer of her dresser. She also noticed that her jewelry had been disturbed, and six costume jewelry rings, valued at \$1,600, were missing.

The woman postulated that the suspect had been working with another person or persons who entered the home while she was in the back yard.

The woman described the suspect as a man between 20 and 25 years old, about 5-foot-5 and weighing about 150 pounds. He had a medium complexion with brown eyes and black hair, was clean-shaven, and wore white tennis shoes.

Burglary, Residence: Between 1 and 2:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31; 3900 block of 25th Street

Someone broke into a home in the 3900 block of 25th Street on the afternoon of Halloween and stole a Nikon camera valued at \$1,000 and camera accessories, also valued at \$1,000.

The resident said he left his home around 1 p.m. that day and returned at about 2:15 p.m. After about 15 minutes back home, he noticed that the kitchen door at the rear of the house was broken and shattered glass was on the floor at the foot of the door.

The man told police that the front door had been locked.

After seeing the broken door, the man walked into a rear bedroom and noticed his camera and camera accessories were gone from the top of a chest. A desk drawer also was opened. Aside from that, nothing else in the house appeared to be disturbed.

The suspect apparently was seen by a next-door neighbor, who had been watch-

ing television in her living room around 2:15 p.m. when she saw a man jump the fence from next door and approach her rear sliding-glass door. The woman asked the man what he wanted, and he fled, so she called police.

The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo and Ingleside Police Officer Mike Smith for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Suzanne Herel.

Your Links to the SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in the Mission and Ingleside police districts. The next meeting at Mission Station will be Tuesday, Dec. 30, 6 p.m., at 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. The next Ingleside meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue.

Meanwhile, those who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street can report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing Captain Greg Corrales at gregory_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the non-traceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez—can contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Captain Kevin Dillon at kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. (Cell phone users, dial 553-8090.) To talk to San Francisco police about a non-emergency situation, call 553-0123.



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This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

It was 1 a.m. on Oct. 19. Sister Thomas More, a teacher at the Missionaries of Charity's convent on 29th Street, was joined for a picnic inside St. Paul's School by close to 50 other nuns and novices in white saris.

The occasion? It was 10 a.m. at the Vatican, and Mother Teresa's 2 1/2-hour beatification ceremony was being broadcast live on TV. The sisters watched in rapt attention as 300,000 people packed into St. Peter's Square in Rome to see Pope John Paul II seal the event. Later, the Noe Valley nuns attended a special mass in Mother Teresa's honor at St. Paul's Church.

Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950 and became known around the globe for her devotion to the world's poor, died in 1997 at the age of 87. Her Noe Valley novitiate was established in 1982.

Beatification is a major step on the road to sainthood in the Catholic Church, and sainthood requires a special holiness. "God confirms holiness by extraordinary acts done through a human person. That's what we call a miracle," says More. "In Mother's case, there was a lady in West Bengal, India, north of Calcutta, who was very sick. She had TB, and she also had an ovarian tumor. Her TB was treated with medicine, but the tumor was healed through the intercession of Mother Teresa on the first anniversary of Mother's death. The sisters put a medal that had been touched to Mother's tomb on the woman's very swollen abdomen. Then they prayed together asking for a healing through Mother, and that night the tumor disap-

peared. She woke up with a flat stomach."

The sisters' word was not enough to convince the church that a miracle had occurred. "When you have an event like that, you then go through all the doctors to see if there wasn't a natural cause for the healing. This took place in Calcutta, India. After it was cleared by them, it was submitted to the Vatican. They checked everything all over again, thoroughly. Doctors who were not directly involved checked all the medical records and test results, and specialists were called in. Their judgment was that this was indeed a miracle. So, because of the examination of Mother's life, and that miracle, she was



Twenty-third Street residents Kevin Duffy and Mary Teahan-Duffy are pleased to announce the birth of Shane Patrick Duffy on Nov. 12, 2003.

cleared for beatification," More explains.

For Mother Teresa to be canonized as a saint, however, a second miracle will need to be attributed to her. Since Mother Teresa is well-known around the world, it is likely this will happen within a few years. With people of less renown, the process can take centuries. Junipero Serra

was beatified in the 1980s, but has not yet been canonized, More points out. "He worked and died here a long time ago. There are a limited number of people who pray to him. It might take quite a while for him to be canonized," More notes.

It took quite a while for Kevin Duffy and Mary Teahan-Duffy's little miracle to be conceived, and that was only after they called in a fertility specialist. The couple shared their story in this column in October, recounting how they thought they were going to lose the baby, but then a great blue heron alighted on their 23rd

hour stretches, so we're getting enough sleep. He fusses a little bit, but he has yet to cry, so we're all just amazed. He's one of those angel babies," Mom observes.

Nine days after his birth, the family had already taken four rolls of film, plus plenty of video footage. "It's hard to put this experience into words. You love your husband, you love your parents, and you love your siblings, but I've never felt anything like this before. It's so overpowering," Mary says.

For Kevin, the word *precious* about sums up the experience. "He's a great eater and sleeper, pretty much like his old man. He's taking after that side of the family, no doubt about it. I'm just looking forward to introducing him to the community and the good people in the neighborhood. I'm sure he's going to fit right in and have a great childhood in Noe Valley," he says.

Another local parent with a different sort of news is Candy Shue. Her essay "How It Happens" was published in November in an anthology titled *My Heart's First Steps: Writings That Celebrate the Gifts of Parenthood*, edited by Jennifer Graf Groneberg. (Shue also won this paper's fiction-writing contest back in August 1996, with her story "Playgrounds.")

"I saw a call for submissions for essays on parenting about four years ago, and I just happened to have this piece I had written about my daughter Allie when she was about 5 months old," recalls Shue.

The book, which is available at Cover to Cover Booksellers, contains contributions from parents living in the United States, Mexico, Italy, Israel, and Japan. The essays run the emotional gamut, from the elation of pregnancy to the despair of postpartum blues, Shue says. One author describes the birth of a second child; another writes about the things children teach their parents as they grow more independent. Yet another reflects upon the strengths of his daughter as she gives birth in her own home.

Shue hasn't set up any book signings yet—she has been busy in November caring for her two daughters—Allie, now 8 years old, and Gillian, who just turned 3—while also participating in National Novel Writing Month. "I've committed to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



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This 'n' That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

writing 50,000 words, and I'm up to 36,000, so I think I can make it," she says.

Another creative denizen is satirist **Charlie Varon**. His latest audio CD, *Visiting Professor of Pessimism*, was recorded live at Brava Theater in April and was officially released in November. It features a parody of BBC news that skewers Bush, Blair, and Rumsfeld; a monologue about marching in a San Francisco peace march; and a thought-provoking story about American Jews and Israel.

The week of Veterans Day, the window display at Cover to Cover was peppered with Varon's CD, showing him in polka dot boxers among a row of men in military uniform.

Varon says it was an "accidental CD" because it stemmed from a benefit performance he did for his synagogue, Or Shalom. "I had not planned to write new material for that show, but then our government decided to invade this country in the Middle East called Iraq. So my collaborator, **David Ford**, and I wrote a lot of material—satire and monologues—in the week before the show just dealing with this crazy invasion," Varon recalls.

Later, Varon sent some of the new pieces to KPFA. The response by listeners was so positive that KPFA asked if it could have a CD of the show to hand out during its upcoming fundraising marathon. Thus the CD was born, co-produced by Varon and the Marsh on Valencia Street. More details about this and Varon's other

work is at www.charlievaron.com.

And now for an accidental departure. **Roberta Greifer**, branch manager of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library since 1987, hasn't been on the job since Sept. 9. Unfortunately, due to a repetitive stress injury in both of her hands, she will not be returning to our library.

"It's really hard for me to deal with automation because I have trouble clicking the mouse. Even a year ago I was managing because we were on a different system and you could still do a lot of key-boarding, but now it's become very computerized, and it involves more clicking. My hands were really hurting me," Greifer explains from the comfort of her Richmond District home. The good news is that her hands are doing much better since she stopped work.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Greifer first worked at our local library in the mid-70s. Later she worked as a floater, filling in for librarians at branches

throughout the city. Subsequent assignments included the science documents at the Main Library, the Sunset and Marina branches, and finally back to Noe Valley.

"I've always felt an affinity for the Noe Valley branch. It is in a community where people really enjoy literature and reading. It also has a strong children's space. Even though I'm not a children's librarian, I enjoy the family atmosphere," Greifer says.

"When I first started as a librarian in the 1970s, there were a lot of young patrons in their 20s and 30s who were renting. We did weekly programs that drew tremendous crowds. The first program I did was live belly-dancing, and people were sitting on the bookshelves. There must have been about 200 people. It was a magical time, a reflection not just of Noe Valley, but of all San Francisco, and to some extent the nation.

"When I came back in the '80s, there were more homeowners, more affluent people, more professional people, who moved to Noe Valley because they wanted to raise their children there. I really enjoyed all of the toddlers and babies and how much the people using the library were still very much interested in promoting books and imparting their values to their children," she says.

Greifer was also inspired by neighborhood activists such as Sally Brunn and Miriam Blaustein, who enlisted hundreds of people in the fight to keep the branch open when it was slated for closure in 1988. "I feel that if it hadn't been for the local community, not only would the Noe Valley Library have been closed, but several other branches would have been closed, too. But history can repeat itself, and I think people take libraries for granted, like we take freedom for granted. Just like people should vote, they should actively participate in the community and in the library. The branch is going to be



After 16 years as branch manager, Roberta Greifer is saying farewell to the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. Photo by Pamela Gerard

renovated and people should be involved, make their wishes known. It's your library, and you should have what you want," she advises.

That's all of This 'n' That for 2003. Enjoy your holidays, and keep us in mind as you celebrate the milestones in your lives. Contact us by e-mailing thisnthat@noe-valleyvoice.com. Or leave a message at 821-3324 or write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.



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The Cost of Living in Noe

Multiple Offers for Both Palaces and Fixer-Uppers

By Corrie M. Anders

Anyone shopping for a home in Noe Valley this fall couldn't help but notice they were on a movie set for "Real Estate Gone Wild." It was wild enough during October that:

—Eight homes sold for more than \$1 million, including one for a stunning \$2 million.

—The average home price soared well above \$1 million.

—Even half-million-dollar homes provoked frothy bidding wars.

"People love Noe Valley. It's unbelievable," Randall Kostick, office manager for Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street, says in an attempt to explain the high prices people are willing to pay.

In October, a total of 16 single-family homes changed hands for the second consecutive month, according to Zephyr, which supplies the *Voice* with monthly sales data for Noe Valley.

"And we've gotten an even higher sale price percentage—103 percent—in a shorter time period," says Kostick. That was a reference to the 33 days it took to close escrow in October, compared to 51 days in September. Buyers also paid an average 3 percent over the asking price in October—a bit more than the 1 percent premium the previous month.

Fears that mortgage interest rates, which have been exceptionally low for the past year, were about to rise stoked some buyers into action. And signs that the stagnant economy was starting to flow helped other buyers muster the courage to make the big decision.

So where is most of the real estate action in Noe Valley? It's at the low end and the high end.

Kostick says homes in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 category, if you can find them, "are being snapped up with multiple offers." In addition, the million-dollar market—"we're talking about people who have significant incomes and can afford it"—continues to bustle, although it's "not quite as crazy as at the lower end."

Sandwiched between those polar extremes are shoppers buying in the \$700,000 to \$800,000 range. "They're taking a breather and saying, 'Wait a minute. That's a lot of money,'" says Kostick. Those properties are less likely to attract "vast, multiple offers."

Buyers paid exactly \$2 million for the

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Oct. 03	16	\$648,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,125,375	33	103%
Sept. 03	16	\$560,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,004,694	51	101%
Oct. 02	9	\$545,000	\$1,612,500	\$896,056	33	101%
Condominiums						
Oct. 03	10	\$355,000	\$1,000,000	\$673,000	29	104%
Sept. 03	7	\$585,000	\$875,000	\$716,429	35	105%
Oct. 02	4	\$575,000	\$760,000	\$630,000	35	100%
2 to 4 unit buildings						
Oct. 03	3	\$651,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,028,667	40	105%
Sept. 03	4	\$793,000	\$1,363,000	\$1,034,625	35	109%
Oct. 02	4	\$850,000	\$1,395,000	\$1,056,250	33	106%
5+ unit buildings						
Oct. 03	2	\$1,245,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,822,500	94	84%
Sept. 03	1	\$1,170,000	\$1,170,000	\$1,170,000	189	90%
Oct. 02	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Data was provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and is based on all Noe Valley home sales (escrow closings) recorded during the month. "Noe Valley" for the purposes of this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

NV 12/03

most expensive home sold in October. The four-bedroom, four-and-one-half-bath house is located in the first block of Homestead Street, near 24th Street.

Ten condominiums were sold in October. An even \$1 million was the top price for a three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath unit in the 2000 block of Castro Street.

Noe Valley Rents*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (July–Sept. 2003)	Average Rents a Year Ago (July–Sept. 2002)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (–)
Studio	\$ 1,175 / mo.	\$ 1,079 / mo.	+8.9%
1 bedroom	1,455 / mo.	1,560 / mo.	–6.7%
2 bedrooms	2,098 / mo.	2,261 / mo.	–7.2%
3 or more bedrooms	2,956 / mo.	2,744 / mo.	+7.7%

*Source: Rent Tech, Inc. (www.renttech.com).

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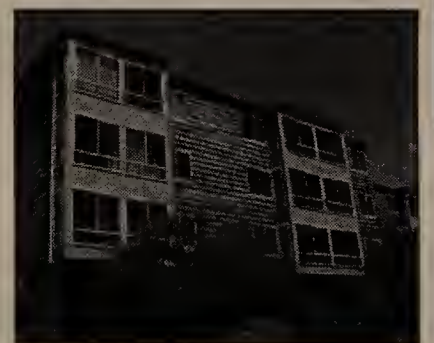
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SHORT TAKES

Mysterious Holiday Cheer

The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore is hosting its second annual holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 1 p.m. until all revelers have had enough refreshments and mirth for the day.

Neighborhood mystery writers Cara Black and Michael Castleman will be on hand. They will be joined by two new authors: Elaine Flynn, who will drive up from Monterey, and Pamela Cranston, a minister from Oakland who has written the first book in a series set in San Francisco and the East Bay.

"We're having this party for the neighborhood, to thank our loyal customers and get the holidays off to a good start," says Diane Kudisch, the store's proprietor. "I'm going to try to make latkes myself this year. We'll see how that works. We'll have a nice spread from the cheese shop down the street too. It's a very local affair."

The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore is located at 4175 24th Street near Diamond. Call the sleuths at 282-7444 if you need more information.

Unload Your Old Cell Phone

The kids in Fairmount School's Girls on the Run program are collecting used wireless phones and accessories through Dec. 9. Girls on the Run is an after-school fitness and self-esteem program for girls in third through eighth grades.

All phones collected will be donated to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Wireless Foundation. The phones will be programmed to dial emergency numbers and then distributed to victims of family violence.

Phones, chargers, etc., can be dropped off on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Fairmount School, 65 Chenery Street near Randall. For further information, visit www.gotrsf.org or call the school at 695-5669.

An Atypical Art Sale

Creativity Explored, a nonprofit studio and gallery for adults with developmental disabilities, is having its annual holiday art sale the weekend of Dec. 5 through 7. The group's executive director, Amy Taub, advises shoppers to show up early to get the best selection at this "lively, frenzied, and unusual affair."

The event features more than 100 artists, who work in a variety of media including painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, fabric art, and assemblage (a type of sculpture). Six-packs of holiday cards will be on sale for \$8.

"The art is oftentimes very humorous and whimsical, but it can also be very serious and insightful," says Taub.

The sale runs Friday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6 and 7, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The gallery is at 3245 16th Street, at Guerrero. Questions? Call Creativity Explored, 863-2108.

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Chronic Pain Support Group

A self-help support group for people dealing with chronic pain is now meeting in Diamond Heights on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The group is a chapter of the American Chronic Pain Association and is facilitated by local resident Peter Quain.

"Some of the emotional issues that people with chronic pain cope with are isolation, depression, guilt, anger, and the loss of support from friends and family," says Quain, who suffered a herniated disc in his lower back while on a hiking trip eight years ago. "It's affirming to hear your own story from the person sitting next to you. Though each story is unique, the similarities are startling."

Quain says the group will be meeting on Diamond Heights Boulevard. Call him at 642-0585 for the exact location. Also for more information, you can check out the ACPA web site at www.theacpa.org.

Volunteer at the Food Bank

The San Francisco Food Bank is seeking volunteers this month to help distribute 9,000 holiday food boxes to needy families in the city. Volunteer slots are available in the evenings and on weekends, but the critical need is for Monday through Friday during the day.

"Volunteers help with inspecting, sorting, and packing donations that come in through community food drives and other sources. They help stock pantry shelves, deliver emergency food boxes, collect food at food drives, and pack and distribute holiday food boxes. The week of Dec. 15 through 19, we'll need many extra hands on deck," says Chris Sams, volunteer services manager.

Depending on the assignment, training can be as little as five minutes for a three-hour task. "The Food Bank is a neat volunteer opportunity because we're flexible. We don't require a fixed amount of time. It's okay for people to just volunteer for two or three hours. We do ask that people call us in advance, just so we can plan the projects accordingly," says Sams.

Volunteers can sign up at 282-1900. Monetary donations are also welcomed at www.sffoodbank.org, over the phone at 282-1900, or via mail to 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94107.

Free Days at the Planetarium

If you are fond of visiting the Morrison Planetarium housed within the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, you'd better get your fix this month because starting in January 2004, the Planetarium will be on hiatus until 2008. That's when the new Academy of Sciences building in Golden Gate Park will be completed.

Throughout December, the Planetarium will offer "Christmas Star" and other favorite astronomy shows each weekend. Also, the entire museum will be admission-free on the last three days of 2003, Dec. 29, 30, and 31, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Then the Academy of Sciences will close until the spring, when it will reopen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE XX

in its temporary home at 875 Howard Street. There, natural history exhibits, as well as the 5,000 fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and penguins from Steinhart Aquarium, will be on display until they return to Golden Gate Park in 2008.

For more information, call 750-7145 or visit www.calacademy.org.

Handmade Shrines for Peace

Store owner Julie Anderson has commissioned more than 40 artists to contribute ornaments and shrines with a peace theme to a month-long show at Chatterbox Gift Gallery on Church Street. A reception will be held Saturday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. Theloni on Wry, a jazz quartet, will provide atmosphere, as art lovers peruse the visual treats, all of which will be for sale.

"I thought the show would be a nice way to involve the art community and the public to counter all of the war and violence that is happening in our world today," says Anderson.

Participating artists from Noe Valley include multimedia artist Eleanor Kent;

hip-hop cartoonist and painter T. J. Walkup; Rebecca West, who does figure drawing; mixed-media artist Cheryl Stone; Laura Jacobs, who works with glass; Anna Elizabeth, a painter; Mary Graves, who makes silver jewelry; and bead artist Donna Davis.

Anderson says she expects to see Russian-style eggs and lots of glass and beaded pieces among the ornaments and shrines. Chatterbox is at 1185 Church Street near 24th Street. For more details about the show, which runs Dec. 1 through 31, call 647-0900.

Music for the Spirits

The critically acclaimed a cappella vocal ensemble Volti, directed by Robert Geary, will perform at the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. The concert, titled "Mysteries of the Spirit," will be part of Volti's 25th anniversary season and will feature the works of contemporary American composers Mark Winges, Morten Lauridsen, Charles Loeffler, William Albright, Wayne Peterson, and Jacob Avshalomov.

Tickets are \$12 to \$15, with discounts for subscribers. The event will be held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. Phone 648-5236 or e-mail ericv@nvcn.org for information.

The Voice Short Takes are compiled and written by Laura McHale Holland.

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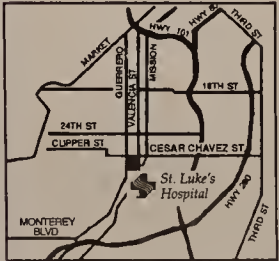
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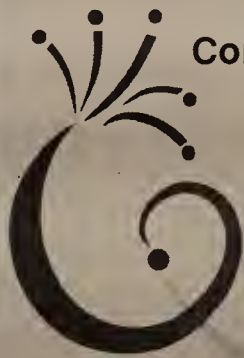
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One of the Hopes of 2003 appeared as a sign outside Lovejoy's Tea Room on Church St. this spring.
Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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Godly Play for children ages 3 and up - 10:00 a.m.
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TUESDAY, DEC. 16

7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24

4:30 p.m. — Family Mass with Children's Choir

8:00 p.m. — Mass in English with Adult Choir

12:00 Midnight — Bilingual Mass with Choir

Christmas Day Masses

THURSDAY, DEC. 25

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 5 p.m. (English) 10:45 a.m. (Bilingual)

There will be no 12:15 p.m. Mass on December 25

New Year's Day Mass

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 2004

9:15 a.m. Mass in English

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"Prepare the Way" Meditation
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Christmas Labyrinth Walk
Sunday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

Contemporary Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE Family Service
Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Special NEW YEAR'S EVE Service
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Christmas Services 2003

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Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

Mass: 8:00 a.m. • Confessions: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Family Mass at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25

Masses: Same as on Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.;

11:15 a.m. in Spanish at the Convent, and 12:00 Noon

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Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Christmas Wonder

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- ★ Christmas Eve @ 11 p.m.
Carols and Candlelight
- ★ Christmas Day @ 11 a.m.
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DEC. 1–31: A PEACE ON EARTH ornament and shrine show features work by 40 artists. Reception Dec. 13, 4–7 pm; music by Theloni on Wry. Chatterbox, 1185 Church St. 647-0900.

DEC. 1–JAN. 30: Chris Sequeira holds classes in T'AI CHI on Mon. and Tues., 6–7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am–noon, at Upper Douglass Park, 27th and Douglass. 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

DEC. 2: A MAYORAL RUNOFF FORUM sponsored by the League of Women Voters, will be moderated by Cheryl Jennings. 6–7:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

DEC. 2, 16, 23 & 30; JAN. 6, 13 & 27: Preschool STORY TIME begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 3, 10 & 14: Stacy Kinkade-Erickson leads a class in HYPNO-BIRTHING. Natural Resources, 816 Diamond St. Call 550-2611 for info.

DEC. 3–17: Hope Levy teaches "MEMORY Exercises" Wed., 9:30–11:30 am. 30th Street On Lok Senior Center, 225 30th St. 550-4415.

DEC. 5: A TEDDY BEAR TEA PARTY for children under 7 begins at 4 pm at the Bernal Heights Library. 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

DEC. 5–7: Creativity Explored's HOLIDAY ART SALE offers work by 100 artists. Dec. 5, 6–9 pm; Dec. 6 and 7,

11–6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

DEC. 5, 6, 11–13: Leigh Evans performs a solo DANCE THEATER piece, "When Day Became Night," a story of ordinary citizens in times of war. 8 pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. 695-8889.

DEC. 5, 12 & 19; JAN. 16, 23 & 30: "MOMMY AND ME with a Jewish Twist" includes stories, music, cooking, crafts, and infant massage to encourage sensory development and socialization for babies ages 6 to 36 months. 10:30–11:30 am. Chabad Jewish Center, 94 29th St. 821-7046.

DEC. 5, 12, 19 & 26: The HOUSE OF BLUEGRASS presents free live music on Fridays, including the Ho'Down Quartet on Dec. 5, Earthquake Country on Dec. 12, the David Thom Band on Dec. 19, and Stay Tuned on Dec. 26. 7–9:30 pm. Maxfield's House of Caffé, 398 Dolores St. 255-6859.

DEC. 6: HOLIDAY CRAFTS DAY features candy houses, beeswax candles, and soap-making for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). 10 am–3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

DEC. 6: Art Fusion's HOLIDAY SHOW offers one-of-a-kind works of art. 10 am–6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 583-0343.

DEC. 6: The HOLIDAY BAZAAR and Posadas at Mission Cultural Center features food, music, and arts and crafts. 11 am–5 pm. 2868 Mission St. 821-1155.

DEC. 6: TREMOLO performs a lyrical acoustic rock concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

DEC. 6 & 7: St. Finn Barr's annual CHRISTMAS FAIRE features entertain-

ment, games, food, and fun. 10 am–4 pm. 419 Hearst Ave. 337-0944.

DEC. 6–21: The Lola Gallery BIZARRE BAZAAR includes fine arts, crafts, and fashions for sale; reception Dec. 6, 6 to 10 pm. The gallery's annual Christmas party is Dec. 11, 9 pm. 2517 Mission St. 401-6800.



Leigh Evans performs her piece "When Day Becomes Night" at Noh Space Dec. 5, 6, and 11–13. Photo by Deborah Taylor

DEC. 6; JAN. 10, 24 & 31: The library holds LAPSITS for babies and toddlers. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 7: The Lollipop FAMILY FUN RUN sponsored by See Jane Run Sports is a 5K run/walk in Golden Gate Park to benefit Girls on the Run. 10 am. Registration is limited; call 447-7494 to sign up.

DEC. 7: The Greenbelt Alliance hosts a moderate HIKE, "An Island in History," to the peak of Angel Island. 10:45 am–4 pm. 255-3233.

DEC. 7: Maya Zuckerman screens and discusses her short EXPERIMENTAL FILM about the Hebrew letters in "Yah-weh" at Judith Levy-Sender and Ramon Sender's "Salon Museries". Noon–2 pm; lunch included. For reservations and location, call 821-2090 or e-mail jlsender@webtv.net.

DEC. 7: Vocal ensemble VOLT! performs "Mysteries of the Spirit," including a cappella music by Mark Wings, who will discuss his work. 4 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

DEC. 7 & JAN. 4: San Francisco CITY GUIDES hosts a free walking tour of the Mission Dolores neighborhood. Meet at noon at the gold-painted fire hydrant at 20th and Church. 557-4266.

DEC. 7 & JAN. 11: Rocket DOG RESCUE will show off some good adoptable dogs in front of Zephyr Real Estate. Noon–4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

DEC. 7–JAN. 25: See Jane Run Sports sponsors a free 5K FUN RUN/WALK, Sundays at 10 am. Meet at 3870 24th St. 401-8338.

DEC. 8–JAN. 26: Ramon Sender and T'ai chi teacher Chris Sequeira lead a study group on the teachings of AZIZ KRISTOF and his book *Enlightenment Beyond Traditions*. Meets in a private home on 23rd Street, on even Mondays. 282-0669; rabar@mindspring.com.

DEC. 8–JAN. 29: Women's a cappella vocal ensemble, the San Francisco SOUND WAVE, practices barbershop harmonies Thursdays, 7 to 10 pm. Laguna Honda Hospital, 375 Laguna Honda Blvd. 665-7960.

DEC 9: Vote for MAYOR and D.A. in San Francisco's RUNOFF ELECTION. Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm.

DEC. 9: FILMS for preschoolers 3 to 5 include *Camel Who Took a Walk*, *Hush Little Baby*, and *Three Little Pigs*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

DEC. 10–JAN. 10: WESLA WHITFIELD performs "Why Shouldn't I?" a concert of jazz-influenced standards from the Great American Songbook. Wed.–Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. Plush Room of the York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. 885-2800.

DEC. 12: A White and Black Ball to support the campaign for an International POETRY MUSEUM features dance bands and an East Indian dinner. 5–10 pm. Grand Conference Hall, Fort Mason. 868-8865.

DEC. 12: The Friends of Noe Valley and Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association give a HOLIDAY PARTY to benefit the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library, featuring food, music, and a live auction hosted by Supervisor Bevan Dufty. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-3954.

DEC. 12–19: Comedian GEOFF HOYLE stars as Shakespeare's Fool in *The Christmas Revels*, a celebration of the winter solstice. Scottish Rite Theater, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland. For times and tickets, call 621-1216.

DEC. 13: A "Holiday GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN" workshop is offered by the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council's Gardening and Composting Program. 10 am–noon. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton. Pre-registration required, 731-5627.

DEC. 13: The "Greens and Gifts" HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE at Strybing Arboretum will hold a family wreath workshop. 10 am–2 pm. Golden Gate Park. 661-1316.

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2003/2004 CALENDAR

DEC. 13: FRENCH CHEF Monique Antolin offers "Quiche and Conversation" at a Salon Museries workshop. Noon-2 pm; lunch included. For reservations and location, call 821-2090 or e-mail jlsender@webtv.net.

DEC. 13: The PENNYROYAL PUPPETS perform "Sweet Betsy from Pike," for children ages 4 to 10. 1:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

DEC. 13: SANTA and his reindeer will fly in to Zephyr Real Estate at 4040 24th St., at the invitation of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Look for snow 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DEC. 14: Bay Area Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party sponsor. "It's Time to Get RADICAL," a community open house featuring songs by Faith Petric and poetry and spoken word by local activists. 1-5 pm. 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

DEC. 14: ROBERT GLÜCK discusses his new book of stories, *Denny Smith*. 2 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

DEC. 14: WALT ANTHONY, "conjurer and teller of tales," entertains at the monthly meeting of PFLAG. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Market St. 921-8850.

DEC. 14: The FOXGLOVE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE performs works by Brahms, Stamitz, and Gliere at the Second Sundays Series at Holy Innocents' Church. 5 pm. 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

DEC. 14: A "Carols and Candlelight" CHRISTMAS MUSIC concert includes handbells, solos, and singing, as well as dessert. 6:30 pm. Bethany Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

DEC. 15: A pregnancy loss SUPPORT GROUP meets at Natural Resources.

816 Diamond St. Call 550-2611 for time.

DEC. 15: CAROL FIELD, author of *Hill Towns of Italy* and *In Nonna's Kitchen*, reads from her work at the Odd Monday Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm; no-host supper at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.



The Young People's Teen Musical Theater performs *Showstoppers 20* at a benefit gala on Dec. 27 at Lowell High School. Photo by C. Towers

DEC. 16: A CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY at the Mission Library features refreshments, crafts, and fun. 6:30 pm. 300 Bartlett St. Space is limited—call 355-2800 for reservations.

DEC. 19: A first night of CHANUKKAH celebration at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav begins with a vegetarian potluck and storytelling, followed by services and Israeli dancing and games. 6:15-10:30 pm. 290 Dolores St. 861-6932.

DEC. 20: Celebrate KWANZAA with storyteller Marijo and the Adigun Siph Capoiera Troupe. 1 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

DEC. 20: Thanks to the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, SANTA will visit the Bank of America at 24th and Castro, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DEC. 20: Celebrate the CELTIC SOLSTICE with a concert by bagpiper Todd Denman and friends. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

DEC. 21: A giant MENORAH LIGHTING and Hanukkah Arts Fair sponsored by Noe Valley Chabad begins at 4 pm on the corner of 24th and Noe.

DEC. 24 & 25: Bethany United Methodist Church presents a CHRISTMAS PAGEANT at 5 pm on Dec. 24, and a Christmas celebration and community potluck brunch beginning at 11 am on Dec. 25. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

DEC. 27: The Young People's TEEN MUSICAL THEATER performs *Showstoppers 20*, a musical revue of their best numbers from the past 20 years. 7:30 pm. Lowell High School, 1101 Eucalyptus Drive. 554-9523.

DEC. 29-31: The California ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, including the Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium, and Natural History Museum celebrates its last month in Golden Gate Park (until 2008) with free admission and extended hours, 9 am to 9 pm.

JAN. 1: The COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER Orchestra and Chorus performs Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. 4 pm. Mission Dolores Basilica, 16th at Dolores. 647-6015.

JAN. 3: RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT ushers in the new year at the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JAN. 5: Ramon Sender reads from his memoir *A Death in Zamora* at the Odd

Monday Series. 7 pm; no-host supper at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JAN. 7, 21 & FEB. 4: Beverly Ewing leads an "Introduction to BUDDHISM" class at the Noe Valley Ministry. 6:15-7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JAN. 10: HELEN GABRIEL MAJOR shows slides of her paintings at a Salon Museries workshop. Noon-2 pm; lunch included. For reservations and location, call 821-2090 or e-mail jlsender@webtv.net.

JAN. 11: HYPNOTHERAPIST, artist, and author Janell Moon is the guest of Salon Museries. Noon-2 pm; lunch included. For reservations and location, call 821-2090 or e-mail jlsender@webtv.net.

JAN. 11: PIANIST Charles Worth performs a recital of music by Beethoven, Liszt, Poulenc, and Chopin at the Second Sundays Series at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. 5 pm. 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

JAN. 19: In memory of Martin Luther King, Frank Wiley discusses AFRICAN-AMERICAN FILMS at the Odd Monday Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm; no-host supper at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JAN. 17: The Jing Mo LION DANCERS perform to celebrate Chinese New Year. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JAN. 17: TERRY RILEY and Gynn Riley perform a concert; Manning Kassin Darter opens the show. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JAN. 20: FILMS for preschoolers 3 to 5 will be shown at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JAN. 24: On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center hosts an OPEN HOUSE with crafts classes and a secret garden. 10 am-noon. 225 30th St. 601-7845.

JAN. 24: Judith Levy-Sender and Ramon Sender lead a workshop in writing MEMOIRS at Salon Museries. Noon-2 pm; lunch included. For reservations and location, call 821-2090 or e-mail jlsender@webtv.net.

JAN. 24: BOX SET DUO performs at the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JAN. 25: DONNA ROSENTHAL reads from her book *The Israelis* at a Salon Museries workshop. Noon-2 pm; lunch included. 821-2090 or e-mail jlsender@webtv.net.

JAN. 26: New College of California School of Law offers a workshop, "How to Collect a SMALL CLAIMS Court Judgment." 10 am. Civic Center Courthouse, 400 McAlister St. 241-1300.

JAN. 31: NORTON BUFFALO and his acoustic band make their first appearance at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

Happy New Year!

The next edition of the *Voice*—the February 2004 issue—will be distributed on Feb. 3, 2004. The deadline for calendar items is **Jan. 15**. Please note that due to space limitations, Noe Valley events take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may e-mail cal@noevalleyvoice.com.

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Music, Food, Fun,
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Where: The Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street @ Elizabeth

When: Friday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.
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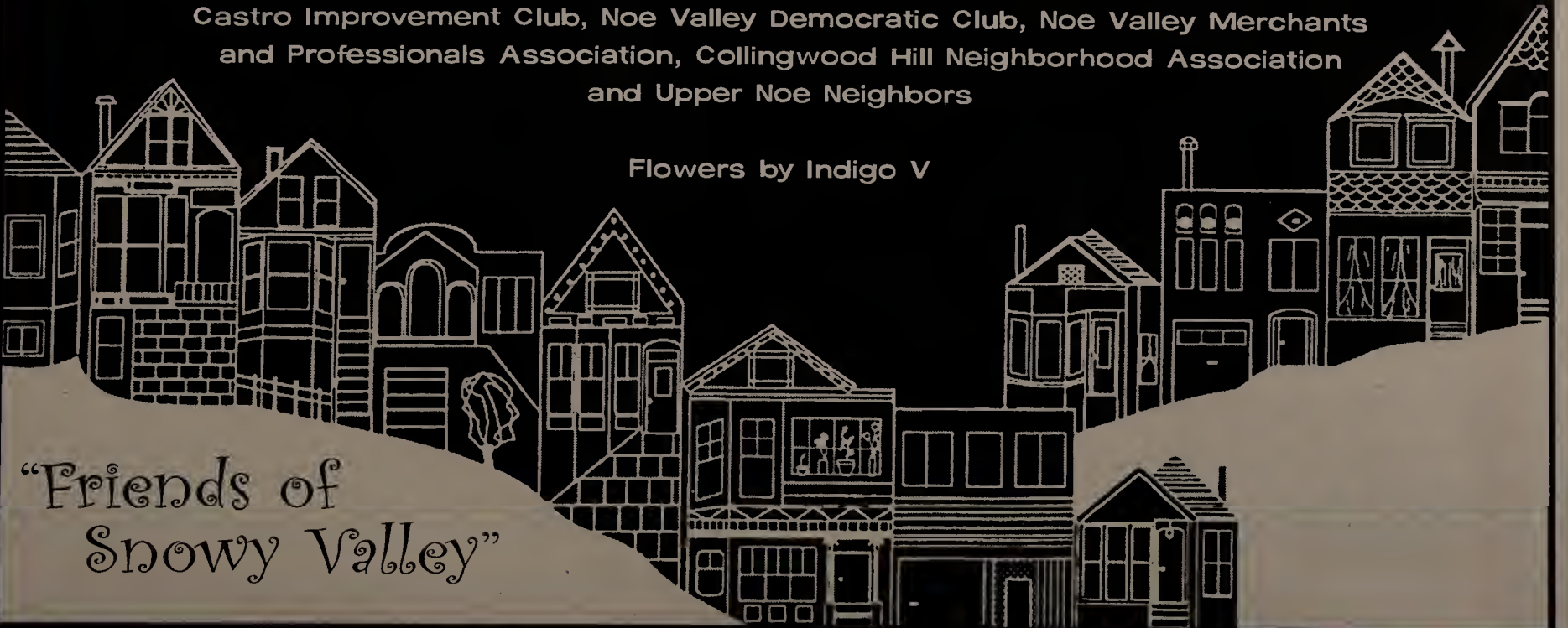
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We cannot thank you enough for what you did. Even on vacation, you were in touch almost daily. With our living four hours away, you took over so much of the responsibilities that were really ours.

When my daughter recommended you, I knew you were good. We've both worked with many Realtors, but you are absolutely the most professional and efficient we have ever worked with.

The little house on 21st Street will be reborn into the pride of the neighborhood. I hope we might be able to see it in the near future.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. I still take the SF Chronicle, so when they select the best Realtor, I think that you should be voted BEST REALTOR OF THE DECADE!

Sincerely,
Jan and Reg Ohlssen



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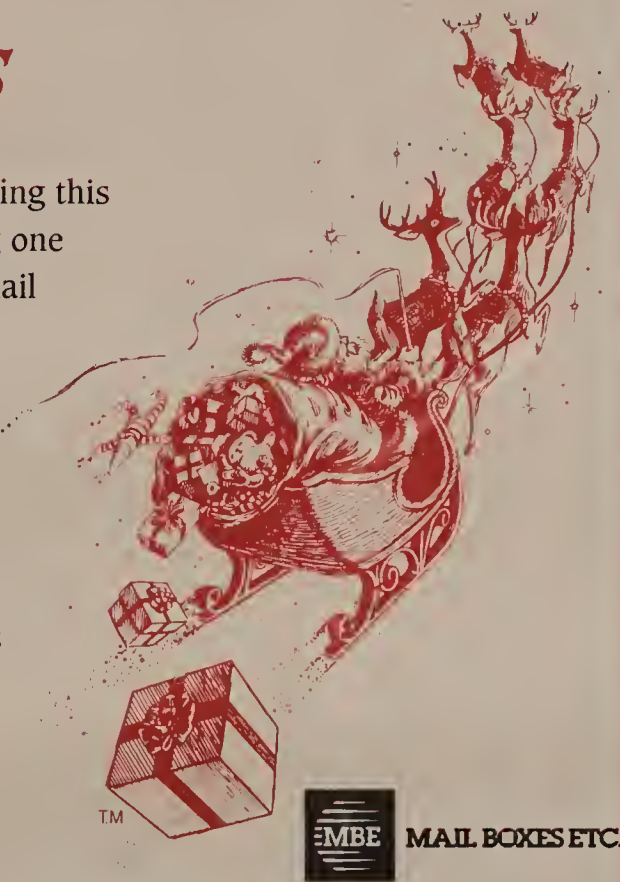
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 WEEKDAYS.....DECEMBER 1 – 239 A.M. – 6 P.M.

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NOE VALLEY MERCHANT AND PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

Please enjoy the holiday festivities and support your neighborhood merchants by shopping in Noe Valley
Holiday Calendar

Thurs. December 11: Second Thursday in Noe Valley – Stores are open until 8 p.m.

Fri., December 12: Holiday Party (Everyone Invited) 7 p.m. at The Noe Valley Ministry

Join your neighbors and merchants and raise money for the Noe Valley Library renovation!

Sat., December 13: Santa and Friends at Zephyr Realty

Sat., December 20: Santa visits Bank of America

Have your picture taken with Santa – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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Double Entry Bookkeeping, 4153 24th St.
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Sherri King Tax Service, 4235 24th St.
Susan M. Maher, CPA, 3892 26th St.

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Wells Fargo Bank, 4023 24th St.

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The Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St.

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Noe's Nest, 3973 23rd St.

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When neighbors act in concert and become community,
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not just for us but everyone who might find help unlooked for,
and the fact it takes one to show the way.



Mark Ezarik
December, 2004

The warmest wishes of Tracy, Paula, Janet, Davi, John and Mark go out
to all this holiday season with hopes that the New Year brings us closer
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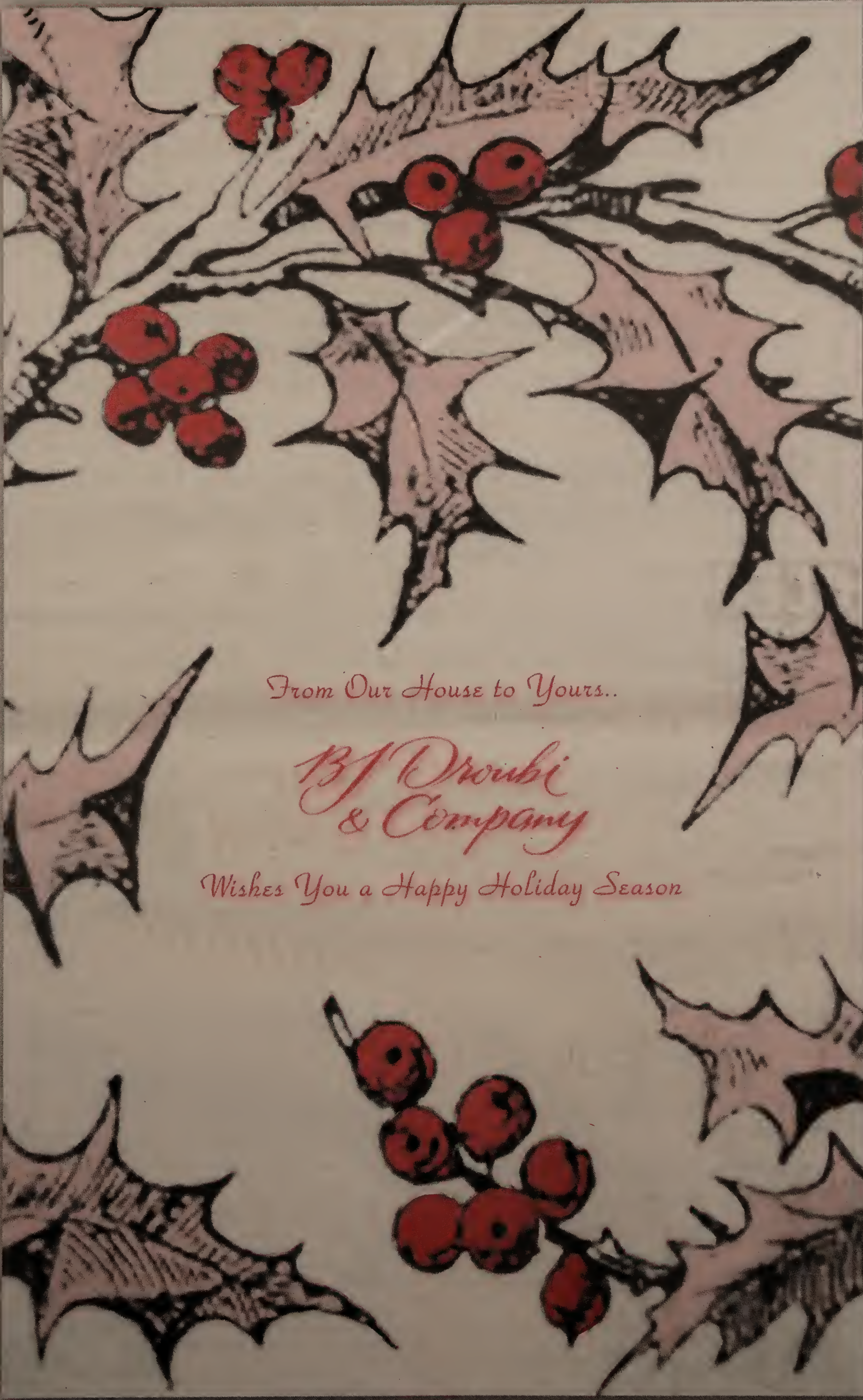
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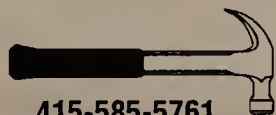


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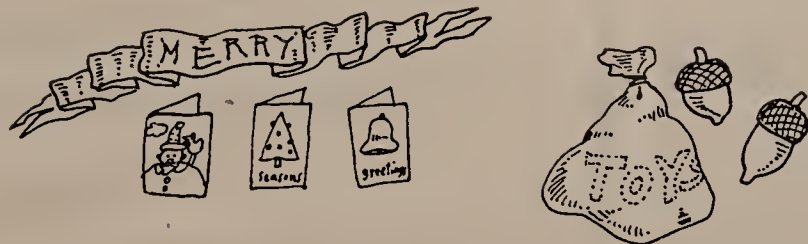
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End of the Trail. Brothers Ben, 8, and Sam Pirie, 5, bag a treat at the Noe Valley Bakery after a bike ride, a soccer game, and lunch in the park with Dad.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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FAMILY ADVENTURES

ARE WE THERE YET?

CLOSE TO HOME

Positively 24th Street

Oh, the Sights to See, the Food to Sample, Along Our 2 1/2-mile Strip

By Rosie Ruley Atkins

"Down there," I say, "Where the line of trees end."

Cars thump overhead on Market Street as Jane, 7, searches for the distant spot where 24th Street intersects with Potrero. Miles, 8, wanders among the tangle of fennel, pampas grass, and gigantic prickly plants that grow wild under the overpass at 24th Street and Grand View Avenue.

"What are we doing again?" he asks, waving a stalk of pampas like a sword.

"We're exploring 24th Street, end to end," I say.

"Do we have to go over that hill?" Jane asks. Potrero Hill looms large in the distance.

"Okay, not all the way to the end," I admit. "Just to the foot of that hill."

"I already know every interesting thing about 24th Street," Miles claims.

We amble downhill, looking for "interesting" things in the quiet residential blocks. Graffiti stating "Stevie Fufu is a boo" is the best we find in the steep first block. A grumpy cat in a dusty, curio-lined window at Homestead Street entertains us only slightly. As we reach Noe Courts, Miles' father reminds him of how much he loved the park's tire swing when he was little. Miles ignores him. He's heard the sweet stories about "Baby Park" too many times.

My husband and I stop to check out the menu at Firefly and agree to return while pumpkin steak is still on the menu. Miles asks if he can join us.

"Do you like pumpkin steak?" I ask.

"Nope," he says, poking his head through Firefly's door. "I like the ceiling in there. It looks like a mattress, and if gravity suddenly went away, you wouldn't bump your head."

We admire the sign featuring flaming letters and revolver in the place of the "r" at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore. From there it's a straight shot to Noe Valley Bakery, where we pick up our first snacks of the day. We munch on our chocolate chip cookies outside of Ocean Front Walkers, choosing our favorite boxer shorts.

"Jane, which ones would you pick if you were a boy?" Miles asks between bites.

"I'm a girl!" Jane yells and then points to the flannel sock monkey pajamas in the "girly side" of the window.

Just for Fun draws the kids in like a magnet, and I have to remind them that we're trying to find new things along our familiar street. "They always have new stuff in here," Miles says.

We have the same discussion at Phoenix Books, where Miles peruses the

Simpsons and Ranma comics while Jane listens to a mom read *Grizzwold*, by Syd Hoff, to her two young sons.

We swing into the Ark for a quick visit and then head downhill. I tell the kids how disappointed I am that Gypsy Moon at Guerrero Street is closed.

"It's just a bunch of old stuff," Jane says, peering through the window.

"I bought a glass eyeball there once," I say. Both kids beg to come back later when the shop is open.

At Valencia, Miles and Jane notice that the gates are open at the Bethel Christian Church.

"Let's go in there!" they say. "We've never been in there."

Reminding them to be quiet and respectful, I take them inside where the usher welcomes us into the soaring, sun-filled atrium. He leads us downstairs to the children's ministry, where, for 10 minutes, the kids watch an animated movie about Moses until Miles asks, "Do they have snacks in here?"

We sneak out and cross the street for thick milk shakes from Big Mouth.

A trio of artists is creating a chalk mural on the bricks at the BART station at 24th and Mission. Their theme isn't entirely clear, but their enthusiasm and the hip-hop blasting from their CD player entertain us until our shakes are drained.

We dissect the meaning of the mural along the wall of the McDonald's while I explain to the kids why snacks from McDonald's don't count for today's adventure.

At South Van Ness, Jane decides that we need to share a strawberry tapioca drink from CLQ. Inside, we explore the exotic Asian sculptures decorating the restaurant's tranquil dining room. A mahogany statue of a praying woman prompts Miles to imitate her prayerful stance until the drink is ready. His serenity vanishes as he tries his first sip.

"Yuck!" he screams and speeds into El Toyanense down the block for a lime *agua fresca* to cleanse his delicate palate.

At the California Food Company at Shotwell, we crane our necks to take in the dozens of piñatas hanging from the

We get a takeout order from the Roosevelt Tamale Parlor, but we have to admit that we're too full to even step foot inside the St. Francis Soda Fountain. "We should have planned our eating better!" Miles says, staring into the gleaming chrome institution.

ceiling, picking out all three PowerPuff Girls, a few Pokemons, and many unidentifiable characters.

At Lucky Alley, we stop into Fruitlandia for more fortification. Jane and I declare that the *chiles rellenos* are the best we've ever had, but picky Miles limits his sampling to tiny bites of super-sweet plantains and *alcapurria* (a delicious deep-fried meat pie).

"Balmy Alley!" Jane exclaims, and both kids dash down the narrow passage-way. Jane finds a particularly vivid portrait of the Virgin Mary, suggesting that



Whether you're strolling down the hill or just lounging on the sidewalk, 24th Street is an adventure from top to bottom.

Photos by Ken Newman

the Virgin will start moving if we stare long enough. After a few seconds, she and Miles start screaming and run away. Miles points to his favorite cartoon images in the Psycho City mural and makes up a song to go with it.

"Psycho City! Psycho City! It'll bring you up! It'll drop you down! It'll drive you crazy all over town!" the kids chant until we get to La Victoria bakery, where we share a coconut-covered fruit pastry and examine the shelves of votive candles. Miles decides that *San Martin Caballero* (St. Martin the Cowboy) is his favorite.

At Florida Street, we dance to the mariachi music pouring out of a social club. I'm guessing that I am the only one hoping this activity is enough to burn off the calories that we've ingested so far.

"I can't believe we're still on 24th Street!" Miles exclaims as we swing into the Precita Eyes mural project. The kids score some leftover Halloween candy and check out the early studies for many of the murals we've passed on our stroll. "Someone actually draws them?" Miles marvels. I don't ask him how he thought they got on the walls.

At Galeria de la Raza, we admire the *papel picados* and hand-painted *luchadores*. Miles manages to find the

sole comic book in the place. "Cool!" he says, flipping through the pages of Sandra Chang's *Akeni*.

We get a takeout order from the Roosevelt Tamale Parlor, but we have to admit that we're too full to even step foot inside the St. Francis Soda Fountain. "We should have planned our eating better!" Miles says, staring into the gleaming chrome institution.

We sneak through a matinee crowd spilling out of the Brava theater to use the bathrooms and to marvel at the beautiful lobby. Jane tells us that she'll be "performing here during the holiday season." She extracts promises from a handful of theatergoers to return for her engagement.

Finally, we reach the whizzing traffic of Potrero Avenue. "Maybe we should keep going," I suggest.

"The bus!" Miles calls as the 48-Quintara pulls up, rescuing him from more adventure.

"You know what I'd do if I was the writer?" Jane says, resting her tired legs across my lap. "I'd take us to Houston, Texas, where my grandpa lives. They have a fake beach there."

I contemplate the cultural and culinary diversity that 24th Street has to offer and I decide that Houston's fake beach has nothing on our real-life urban corridor.

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SCHOOL REPORT

Editor's Note: We're pleased to announce that our school news now includes a report from Fairmount Elementary School, written by volunteer parent Jan Goben. Fairmount is located on the southern tip of Noe Valley at Chenery and Randall streets. And as you can see, language and the arts are becoming school specialties.

FAIRMOUNT

From Morning Circle to Evening Poetry

As a group of Fairmount School second-graders sings a Spanish song for other students, parents, and teachers at the daily morning circle, their principal, Karling Aguilera-Fort, stands behind them, clapping, swaying, and tapping his toes.

Morning circle is a time for the school community to gather to hear announcements and receive awards. It is also a time when Aguilera-Fort encourages the students to share in one of his passions: the celebration of the Spanish literary tradition.

Now, kids and parents are following Aguilera-Fort to an event where he helps the community do just that. One Friday evening a month (usually the last Friday), Aguilera-Fort is the master of ceremonies at a gathering at El Valenciano Restaurant, 1153 Valencia Street, where anyone is invited to stand up and recite a poem from memory, in Spanish. It is a tradition performed in Spanish-speaking countries, on buses or in local plazas, and El Valenciano keeps up the tradition with a piano player accompanying the participants and Aguilera-Fort weaving together the recitations with his narrative.

Elementary and middle school students sometimes get up to recite their favorites. And now a group of English-speaking parents who are taking Spanish classes from second-grade teacher Loreta Torres is descending upon El Valenciano on the poetic Friday evenings. Who knows, perhaps as they become fluent, they will venture forward to recite poetry as well. The evenings are magical, filled with warmth and music.

Gardening Club: Fairmount invites anyone who is interested to join in the monthly Roly Poly Gardening Club to help keep the school grounds beautiful. Parents, students, and neighbors gather to plant flowers, pick up trash, and pull weeds. The upcoming Roly Poly days are

Sunday, Dec. 21, and Saturday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your gloves and meet a neighbor.

School Tours: The deadline for kindergarten enrollment is quickly approaching—Jan. 16—and parents are encouraged to visit Fairmount and learn more about its programs, including Spanish Immersion, English Language Development, and special education classes. Tours are held every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m.; no appointment is necessary. For information, call the school at 695-5669.

Chevy's Night: Anyone who would like to support Fairmount School or get to know the community better is welcome to join families at Chevy's Restaurant in Stonestown on Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. When diners present a Fairmount/Chevy's flyer, 20 percent of the check is donated to Fairmount. Stop by the school to pick up a flyer, or message chris@gokid.org to have one sent to you.

—Jan Goben

ALVARADO

Teacher Luis Sierra Honored

Alvarado third-grade Spanish Immersion teacher Luis Sierra was selected "San Francisco Teacher of the Month" for October by 826 Valencia, an organization that helps students develop their writing skills in the areas of fiction, nonfiction, and English as a second language.

The 826 staff was especially pleased to honor Sierra because his students and their parents wrote wonderful letters describing how he made math fun, played soccer after school with students, and taught them compassion through their literature assignments. Moreover, he created new ways for working parents to participate in their children's school experiences, and even wrote letters to each of his students during the summer while visiting his family in Mexico.

Director Ninive Caligari adds, "We were thrilled when so many families from the Alvarado community came to the award presentation to applaud and support our decision." The program, which is located at 826 Valencia Street, offers free drop-in tutoring, workshops, and school field trips (as well as pirate supplies!).

Books Inc. Tutors: Alvarado School has entered into a new partnership with local bookseller Books Inc. to provide reading tutors for the school's students. San Francisco School Volunteers will assist by preparing Books Inc. employees to work with young readers.

Playground Plans: Parents and students will select one of three proposed plans currently on display in the first-floor hall-

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
David Weiner, Principal

Fairmount Elementary School
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal

James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
415-695-5675
Janice Daniels, Principal

way for the new "Dream Playground," which will be built at the Douglass Street school on March 9, 2004, by members of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. All of the safe and accessible playground configurations include ramps, bridges, ladders, slides, forts, and playhouses where differently-abled children can play together safely. If you would like to volunteer to help on March 9, please call the school for details.

School Tours: Come take a tour on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. through Dec. 12.

Chats with the Principal: Alvarado Principal David Weiner opens his doors on the first and third Fridays from 8 to 9 a.m. For more information, call 415-695-5695 or visit the school's web site at www.alvaradoschool.net.

—Susan Cattoche

JAMES LICK

First-Ever James Lick Scrabble Tournament

It's only 8 a.m. when the clatter of wooden tiles shatters the silence of the school library. Dictionaries in hand, a group of students tackles an hour of before-school practice with coach Addie Lapiere, a.k.a. Our School Librarian. Poring over their purple Scrabble Cheat Sheets, these verbal athletes are learning how two- and three-letter words can help them add vital points to their scores. ("Hey, what's an *edli*? Is that really a word?" Yes.)

Contestants agree to attend training sessions before school or at lunchtime; read for 30 minutes every day to build their vocabularies; and commit to attending all three sessions of the tournament: Dec. 10, 11, and 13. In contrast to the usual Scrabble rules, students will be encouraged to use dictionaries during tournament play because, remarks Lanier,

"It's another way for them to learn, and that's the most important thing."

Hoop Dreams: Members of the James Lick boys' and girls' basketball teams traveled to Stanford University on Nov. 25 to watch the famous Stanford Women's Basketball team in action. The outing was sponsored by GEAR UP, a program which promotes early preparation for college.

New Student Leaders: Marcelo Pereira has been elected student body president; Antonio Ayala, vice president; Maya Danaher, secretary; and Ian Steinman, treasurer. Could there be a future mayor or "governator" in this outstanding group of student leaders?

Stone Soup: Parent volunteer Patricia Hoskins organized a special pre-Thanksgiving lunch on Nov. 25 in the Parent Room for the many parents, staff, and volunteers who bring meaning to the word "community" at James Lick. The menu featured Hoskins' legendary Seven Bean Soup, cornbread, and rice.

The Candy Cane Alliance: Noe Valleyans are smiling as they stuff quarters into parking meters during the holiday season because James Lick students working in alliance with the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association wrapped each of the one-legged bandits with colorful ribbons on Nov. 29.

Mexico Trip: The school's annual Mexico trip will bring many students to Merida, Yucatan, the week of Feb. 15 to 22. Several of our students are looking for sponsors who can help them cover expenses for this valuable experience.

Coffee with the Principal: Parents, neighbors, and merchants are invited to join Principal Janice Daniels for coffee and refreshments between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on the last Friday of each month. The chats take place in Room 107 and feature open discussion of school-related issues.

The James Lick Community Alliance meetings continue on the last Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m., with lunch provided. Noe Valley merchants and neighbors are welcome to attend.

Make a Difference! Please visit Room 107 or contact Denise Rueda at 415-695-5675. Share your ideas, talent, and support for a diverse and caring community.

—Susan Cattoche

PUBLIC SCHOOL DEADLINES

The San Francisco Unified School District is enrolling children for the 2004-05 school year. The deadline for enrollment for kindergarten, middle school, or high school is Jan. 16; the deadline for siblings and special education students is Dec. 5. All new students, all students in fifth or eighth grade, and all students who want to apply for a transfer to a new school must come to the district's Educational Placement Center at 555 Franklin Street.



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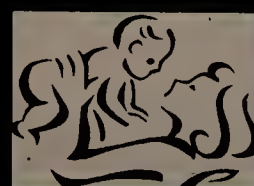
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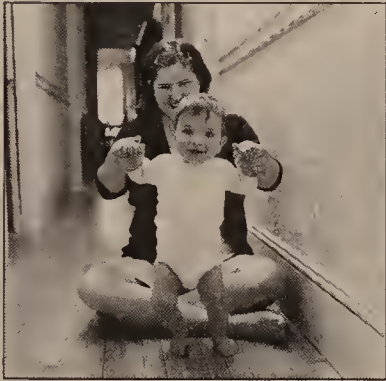
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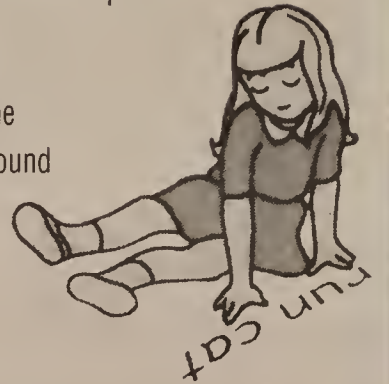
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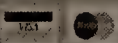
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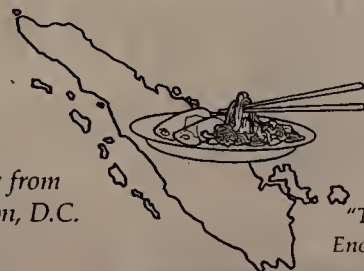
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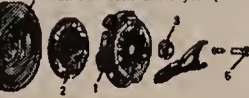
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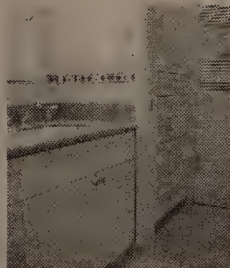
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BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's book list, chosen by Noe Valley branch librarians Wayne Donica and Carol Small, features the story of a Zen countercultural childhood, tales of violence in the suburbs of Tokyo, and the giant carnivorous crabs of Planet J'koot. To find out which books are available, call 695-5095, log onto www.sfpl.org, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Besides books, the branch has magazines, videos, CDs, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also offers the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*, a collection of books in Spanish, and sections on women's studies and career resources. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ Iran comes into possession of nuclear weapons and sets out on a course of world domination in *The Road to Armageddon* by Larry Collins.

◆ Hidden in the background of Cassandra Sales' seemingly idealistic family lurk betrayal and deadly retribution in *Over His Dead Body* by Leslie Glass.

◆ Random violence in the suburbs of contemporary Tokyo is the subject of Natsuo Kirino's starkly realistic *Out*.

◆ *Smoke Screen* by Kyle Mills exposes the immense, unchecked power of Big Tobacco in the United States, and the intrigue and treachery of its backroom culture.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ Even if your marriage is the pits, before you rush off to divorce court think first of your children, contends Joshua Coleman in *Imperfect Harmony*.

◆ Kieran Mulvaney presents a raw look at ruthless Japanese whalers and the feeble attempts of international conservationists and activists to save the great whales in *The Whaling Season*.

◆ Life has nothing to do with being a passive victim of circumstances, and everything to do with making choices, says Gary Zukav in *The Mind of the Soul*.

◆ Ivan Richmond describes his Zen countercultural childhood in California in *Silence and Noise: Growing Up Zen in America*.

Children's Fiction

◆ Anna Grossnickle Hines provides a fun guessing game for toddlers in *Which Hat Is That?* a "Flip-the-Flap Book," illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Ages 2 to 3.

◆ Although Alfie is annoyed when his younger sister interferes with his toys or throws a tantrum in a store, he still feels caring and protective toward her, in *Annie Rose Is My Little Sister*, written and illustrated by Shirley Hughes. Ages 3 to 5.

◆ Preschool children will happily go along for the ride, and may understand more than the protagonist about certain things seen along the way, when they hear *Minerva Louise and the Red Truck*, written and illustrated by Janet Morgan Stoeke. Ages 3 to 5.

◆ Louise Erdrich shows that a household object can have meaning as a provider of comfort and protection, as well as be a stimulus for memories, in *The Range Eternal*, illustrated with paintings by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. Ages 5 to 7.

◆ In *The Castaway*, James Stevenson writes and illustrates his latest Hubie the Mouse story, in which the youngest member of the family is accidentally separated from his brother and parents, then reunited after some amazing adventures. Ages 5 to 7.

◆ Jack Prelutsky, author of many books of poetry enjoyed by children and adults, shows us that frogs, babies, galoshes, and other creatures and objects can be quite entertaining in *The Frog Wore Red Suspenders*, illustrated by Petra Mathers. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ A 12-year-old who has grown up in foster homes, run away several times, and yearned to live in a stable family tries to save an artistic woman who has helped her in *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff. Ages 10 and up.

◆ Teenagers Barney and Katie, kidnapped and whisked off to Planet J'koot, are faced with the possibility of being eaten by giant crabs in *Parasite Pig* by William Sleator, a suspenseful science-fiction sequel to his *Interstellar Pig*. Ages 10 and up.



LIBRARY EVENTS

Chinese Lion Dancers

◆ The Jing Mo Lion Dancers perform a special program in honor of the *Chinese New Year* on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2004, at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday Morning Lapsits

◆ Accompany your baby or toddler to the library's popular *lapsits*, featuring stories, songs, and finger plays, on Saturdays, Dec. 6, and Jan. 10, 24, and 31, at 10:30 a.m.

Stories and Films for Kids

◆ Children 2 and up are welcome to attend *preschool story time*, 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Dec. 2, 16, 23, and 30, and Jan. 6, 13, and 27. Meanwhile, kids a bit older (3 and up) can come watch short *films*, at 10 and 11 a.m., including *Camel Who Took a Walk*, *Hush, Little Baby*, and *Three Little Pigs*, on Tuesday, Dec. 9, and *Good Night, Gorilla*, *Harold's Fairy Tale*, and *Pete's a Pizza* on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

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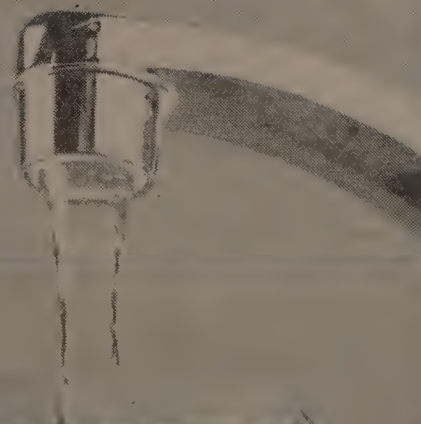
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Advocates for Upper Noe Rec Center

Contact: Greg Clark, 826-6222
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31869, San Francisco, CA 94131-0869
Meetings: First Tuesday of the month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly board meetings; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month (every other month—call to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Jeannene Przyblyski, 282-4334
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Second Thursday every other month (call to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, noestrolls@aol.com
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices of other events, e-mail your first name, and your baby's first name and age, to noestrolls@aol.com, or log on to the group's web site: www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.



Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the route for a 5K run/walk in San Francisco.) For information, go to www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association

Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lodoosh@pacbell.net
SWMNA web site: www.lodoosh.com
Mailing Address: 1345 Guerrero St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Salvation Army, 3550 Cesar Chavez St., 7 p.m. (Membership includes residents who live between Mission and Fair Oaks and Cesar Chavez and 24th streets.)

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Tom Mogensen, 824-7127
Mailing Address: 1459 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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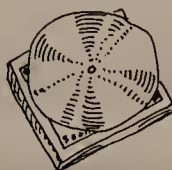
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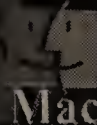
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The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the February 2004 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Feb. 3. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS JAN. 15, 2004.**

Note: Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed on our web site (www.noevalleyvoice.com) for one month.

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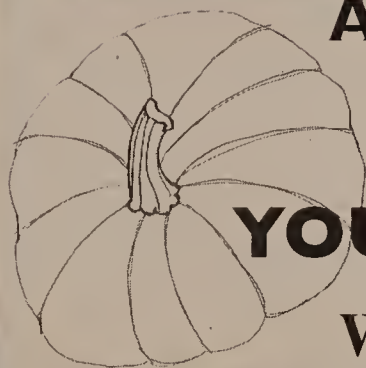
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Vote Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

By Mazook

THE NOE VALLEY BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NVBI) released a report titled "Democracy in Peril", on Thanksgiving Day. It stated, "While America maintains that it wants to make the world safe for democracy, the greatest peril to our government today is our own citizenry's failure to vote. Bad things happen when voters don't vote."

The report was also highly critical of Noe Valley: "Everyone in Noe Valley knows better than not to vote, but for reasons currently unknown, many still choose not to vote."

According to the city's Department of Elections (DOE), of the 16,404 registered voters in Noe Valley, a mere 55 percent (8,955) voted in the Nov. 4 municipal election.

Another fact: Since 1997, voter registration in Noe Valley has gone down—way down. Six years ago, we had more than 18,000 registered voters. Last month, the number was just over 16,000. Are there fewer of us here now? Or are we just more apathetic?

☎☎☎

GONZALEZ OR GAVIN: The Nov. 4 vote for mayor showed Democrat Gavin Newsom as the top vote getter in Noe, with 36 percent in a field of nine candidates. Green Party candidate Matt Gonzalez came in second with 25 percent. Trailing him were Susan Leal at 14 percent, Tom Ammiano 13 percent, Angela Alioto 10 percent, and Tony Ribera with just over one percent of the vote. In the Noe district attorney's race, Terence Hallinan scored 37 percent, Kamala Harris 34 percent, and Bill Fazio 24 percent.

I'm sure you know by now there will be a runoff election on Dec. 9 between Newsom and Gonzalez for mayor, and Hallinan and Harris for district attorney. The NVBI is predicting that if there is a large voter turnout, Gonzalez will win the mayor's seat, but if the citywide turnout is anything less than 50 percent, Newsom will come away the victor. No predictions on the D.A. race.

To get a clue as to how the mayor's race would be decided in Noe Valley, the NVBI conducted an informal poll at the corner of 24th and Sanchez on Saturday

morning, Nov. 22. Passersby who claimed to live in Noe Valley and were registered to vote got to speak up and tell us who would get their vote for mayor.

Out of the 240 questioned, we found 100 certified Noe Valley voters. Of that bunch, 62 said they were voting for Gonzalez, 22 were sticking with Newsom, and 16 were undecided. This result is especially surprising since Noe Valley is over 80 percent registered Democrats. But remember the 2002 gubernatorial race: in that contest, Green Party candidate Peter Cameo got 19 percent of the Noe vote.

☎☎☎

DEMOCRATS? GREENOCRATS? The Noe Valley Democratic Club has not endorsed either candidate. "We are taking no position on mayor in the December 9 runoff," says club president Rafael Mandelman. At the group's Nov. 19 meeting, the members cast secret ballots for one of two choices: Newsom or no endorsement.

"In order to get our endorsement," explains Mandelman, "the candidate must get 60 percent of the membership vote, and that didn't happen."

Put another way, what the Demo Club could not do was name a Green Party candidate as one of its options.

Mandelman adds that S.F. pollster David Binder, in his post-election analysis for the 50 people who attended the meeting, provided a multicolored map and numbers that showed Gavin Newsom had evenly distributed strength throughout the city.

"I could be surprised on December 9th," says Mandelman, "but Gonzalez has a real tough job ahead of him if he hopes to win the runoff."

☎☎☎

NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOE BUSINESS: Everybody wants to know the fate of Cover to Cover's old space on 24th Street now that the "For Lease" sign has been removed from the front window. Well, the Haight Street footwear emporium Shoe Biz has bought the space and will soon start a remodel of the interior. The plan is to open by mid-January, says Shoe Biz's head shoemeister, Mehran Esmaili.

According to Esmaili, he and his wife Nooshin first opened Shoe Biz on Haight Street in 1979. Their specialty was men's and women's designer sneakers. Then they opened a second store on Haight specializing in "junior" shoes. Most recently, they opened a third store, also on Haight, featuring higher-end fashion-trendy shoes, "which are designed by us and manufactured in Spain." The imports must be pretty popular, since the Esmailis are also about to make a major expansion of that store.

"For Noe Valley, we are going to stock the store with our most popular lifestyle streetwear [sneakers] and our imported fashion trend line. It'll give men and

women each about 300 styles of shoes to pick from," Esmaili says, "and I think the neighborhood will like the choices we will offer them, at prices they will find affordable."

Why Noe Valley? "Why not?" says Esmaili. "We got a great spot in a great neighborhood, and we're really excited about this opportunity."

☎☎☎

OUT OF WORKWEAR: In other Downton Noe Valley news, the shop Workwear is vacating its storefront at 3989 24th Street near Noe and a "For Lease" sign has been pasted on the door. Workwear was the second clothing outlet for Cotton Basics, the longtime Noe business located on the corner of 24th and Castro.

"We're planning to close the [Workwear] store after January 1 and will be moving that stock either to our 24th and Castro store or to the new store we are opening in Bernal Heights," says Cotton Basics manager Kay Lamming.

The new store, at Cortland and An-dover, "will have about 1,500 square feet, and we plan to add a new men's line to that store, along with our Cotton Basics and Workwear lines."

Lamming says that in anticipation of the opening early next year, she is looking for old pictures of Bernal Heights to feature on the front of a T-shirt. The Workwear T-shirt collection already includes five old-time Noe Valley pictures and one of the Castro Theater. If you've got one of B.H., give Lamming a call at 550-8646.

Over the past four months, a South of Market women's clothing discounter called Red Dot Outlet has shared half of the Workwear space on 24th Street.

Lamming says Red Dot gave notice in November (saying it would move out by Dec. 1) and has decided to put its resources into a new store Red Dot is opening in the Marina.

As for what will fill the Workwear space, Lamming says there has been "a lot of interest in the spot," but she declined to elaborate further.

☎☎☎

GOT GUNS? If you've taken a stroll down 24th Street lately, you couldn't help but gawk at the window of the Real Food Company, which has stood empty since Labor Day, when it was closed "for remodeling." The storefront has become a neighborhood bulletin board, with postings ranging from yoga classes to organic food outlets, to satirical art and political diatribes veering way left and way right.

One flyer that got our attention was a notice posted by the "Noe Valley Gun Owners Association" advertising a noon Nov. 29 meeting in Douglass Park. The flyer also said the group was advocating a gun dealership on 24th Street.

When the *Voice* e-mailed the name on the notice (George Bennett at noeguns@hotmail.com), asking if the association was real or just a premature April Fool's joke, we got this reply:.

"Yes, the organization does exist. We've been around for approximately five years. We currently maintain an e-mail list of approximately 150 Noe Valley residents who consider themselves members. About two-thirds of them are males and one-third female. A good half of our members are homeowners in the neighborhood, married with children of elementary school age. We've been keeping a low profile since we've been harassed (as have our kids) by many of our tolerant progressive neighbors, although I would consider most of our members to be politically progressive.... We estimate that one out of every five homes in Noe Valley has a firearm on the premises.

"Our estimate is unscientific," the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

writer admits. "It's just a hunch based on our members' experiences and conversations with their neighbors."

Still doubtful, the *Voice* decided to show up at Douglass Park (both Upper and Lower) at the appointed time on Nov. 29. The gun owners may have been there, but if they were, they were cleverly disguised as dog walkers, kids, and trees.

Maybe all of those pistol-packin' ladies and gentlemen could sponsor a seminar at Alvarado School on gun safety. It might help allay the fears of the other 80 percent of us who think the sooner we ban those dang' things (except in the hands of what the Second Amendment calls "a

well-regulated militia"), the closer we will be to joining the civilized societies of the world where guns are not tolerated as private instruments of lethal violence.



DON'T FENCE ME IN: A less controversial group is the Portola Park Stewardship Association, which is trying to save the trees and open space at the top of Clipper Street (at Portola) from development as a housing complex. The group's leader, Marcy de Luce, came down to Noe Valley to elicit neighborhood support for a seven-year fight against what she describes as a "land grab." The developer, Spiers Construction, is planning to build 32 residential units on the site, and the project will block the expansive views to the northeast.

The Stewardship Association was formed by about 15 activists, de Luce says. They presented the Board of Super-

visors with a petition signed by 370 neighbors who oppose the city's plan to trade the 23,000-square-foot swatch of open space off Clipper for a piece of land (owned by the developer) adjacent to an existing city park in West Portal.

According to de Luce, developer Spiers "bought the land for \$700,000 in 1997. He was denied building permits because the land was unstable. In 2003 [somehow] the city re-assessed the land at \$2.95 million, coincidentally the same assessed value as the [city has placed on the] land on Portola and Clipper, with its sweeping view of downtown and the Bay Bridge."

However, her group has learned the hard lessons of City Hall. First, in land exchanges, public notice doesn't have to be given. Then, when a delegation of the group attended the Nov. 18 Board of Supervisors hearing on the city's plan to exchange land parcels, they were surprised that only two supervisors voted against the swap, our District 8 supervisor Bevan Dufty, and Chris Daly. Both Newsom and Gonzalez cast yea votes.

De Luce reports Spiers is wasting no time. Workers appeared at the Portola site the following Saturday with a tractor and a 30-foot-high drill, "to take soil samples." However, it appears that the group will now prepare to fight the permit applications, and de Luce vows they will be taking legal action to preserve the parkland at the corner of Clipper and Portola.



TROLL THE ANCIENT YULETIDE CAROL: The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association has pulled its

75 banners out of storage and is again putting them back up on the telephone poles in Downtown Noe Valley. The group is also beseeching all their fellow merchants to put up white lights in front of their stores, and asking the James Lick kids to help red-and-white-stripe the parking meters along 24th Street.

But this year, instead of the usual toy drive, the merchants will be collecting new books for needy children as part of the Mission Y's "Books Not Barbies" program. Carol Yenne, president of the association, says Value Vacation at 23rd and Sanchez is the main Noe Valley sponsor and dropoff point, but that you can also leave a book (new, please) for a child of any age at her shop Small Frys, on 24th near Castro.

Yenne also promises that Christmas carolers will be roving up and down 24th Street the first three Saturdays in December and Santa Claus will be making two pre-Christmas appearances, the first one at Zephyr Real Estate on Saturday, Dec. 13, and the next at the Bank of America on Dec. 20 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

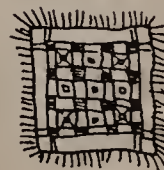
The local churches will be holding special concerts and pageants, of course, such as the one at Bethany Church on Dec. 24 (Christmas pageant at 5 p.m.).

And Hanukkah begins this year on Dec. 19. The first night will be celebrated at the Noe Valley Ministry starting at 6:30 p.m.—be sure to bring your menorah to light.

Noe Valley Chabad is planning its fourth annual giant menorah lighting Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. on the corner of 24th and Noe. Rabbi Gedalia Potash also invites people to bring their kids a little earlier, to a 4 p.m. Hanukkah Arts Fair, where they can make their own menorah.



That's 30 for '03. You all have a happy and safe holiday season. Peace on earth. Well, I'd settle for peace in Iraq. Bye, kids. ■



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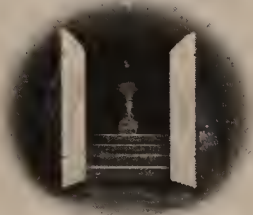
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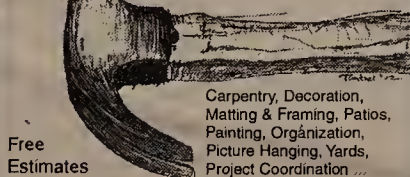
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GAVIN NEWSOM

In this race for mayor, there are some who want to pull us far to the left, others who want to see the city move far to the right. Gavin Newsom will bring San Franciscans from every neighborhood together so we can move our city forward.

Gavin Newsom has shown what we can accomplish when we bring San Franciscans together. Newsom helped unite leaders from every neighborhood to pass the recent neighborhood parks bond. He was instrumental in bringing labor, management and riders' groups together to pass fundamental MUNI reform. And Newsom is working to unite San Franciscans around real solutions to the homeless crisis.

Newsom has detailed plans to create high wage jobs for San Franciscans. He is working to bring the city and schools together so that every child has access to a high quality education. He is fighting for a pioneering affordable housing plan that will help provide new homes for working families. And Newsom is "getting under the hood" of city government to make it work more efficiently for everyone.

On November 4, please join with Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, State Senator Jackie Speier, Rescue MUNI, the San Francisco Firefighters and neighbors from every corner of San Francisco in support of Gavin Newsom for Mayor.

**Yes! I support Gavin Newsom's plan
for neighborhood change!**

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL



Join Gavin Newsom's Campaign for Change.

Please fill out this form and mail it to:
1625 Van Ness Ave
Third Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109

Find out more at:
www.newsomformayor.com

**THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT
TO WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.**



Working together is the best gift.

*Santa and Rudolf the Reindeer will be stopping by the office with candy canes
for the kids Saturday, December 13th from 11 am – 1 pm.*

*Don't forget our Annual Toy Barrel. Please bring unwrapped new toys for
the Child Abuse Council and Toys for Tots—Thanksgiving to Christmas.*

*Also this year, please bring non-perishable food items
for the San Francisco Food Bank.*



ZEPHYR
REAL ESTATE

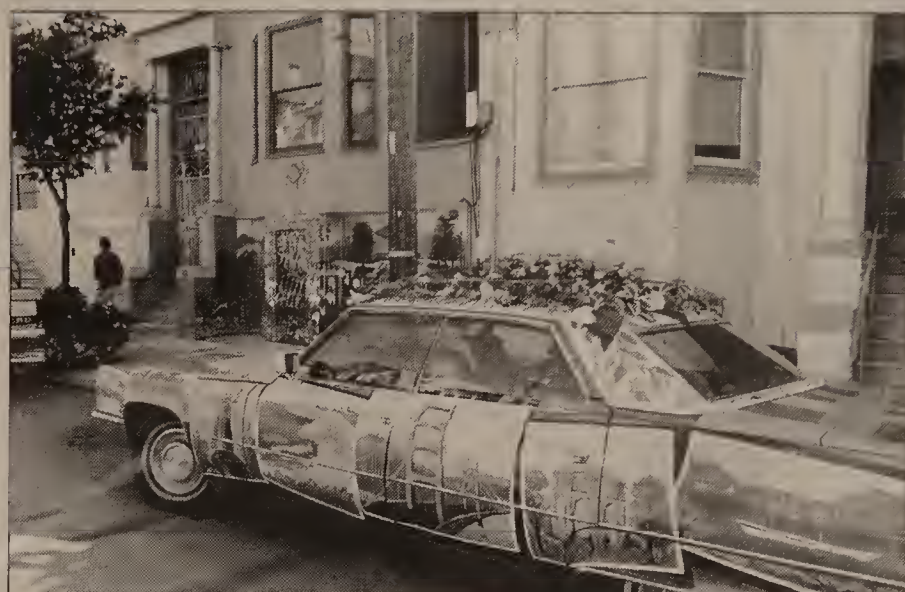
4040 24th Street • Noe Valley • 415.695.7707 • www.zephyrsf.com

215 West Portal Ave. • 415.731.5000 4200 17th St. • 415.552.9500 318 Brannan St. • 415.905.0250

THE LAST PAGE



My, what a big third eye you have!



Special delivery of these picture postcards can include a fruit basket.

Art Invasion

THEY CAME. THEY PARKED. THEY LOOKED LIKE NOTHING ELSE. From what distant auto showroom, we do not know. But art cars have found the environment in Noe Valley to their liking. *Voice* photographer Pamela Gerard has been following their migration to our neighborhood, and for the past five years has documented their presence in these pages. Here then is our holiday tribute to these special vehicles. For more information on the art car phenomenon, and more examples, go to www.artcarfest.com.



I will drive without a care—I will park it anywhere. This Dr. Seuss prototype exists in a parallel universe where parking on the sidewalk doesn't earn a ticket or a tow.



This Rainbow Fish of children's literature has wheels.



The humpbacked flute player and other icons from the American Southwest grace this Japanese import.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on the Last Page. Mail manuscripts, which should be no longer than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want your manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.